

TV exposes £200 a month on diet pills and vitamins

UPROAR AT £20k BENEFITS MOTHER

Report by Heather Large

A MOTHER of six from Walsall has caused a storm on Twitter after she said on TV that she chose not to work to 'be there' for her children, while claiming £20,000 a year in benefits.

Sue Moriarty appeared on Channel 5's On Benefits programme and said: "I believe that women should be at home with the children."



Sue Moriarty

The 48-year-old says that she prefers to be at home for her six children emotionally, as it was revealed she receives £1,700 of taxpayer's cash each month. Sue, who has been unemployed for a decade and claims to be a clairvoyant – was furious after viewers branded her a 'waste of space' on social media.

She revealed that she spent almost £200 a month on diet pills for her and vitamins for her two youngest children, Romeo, 11, and Jade, 12, as she doesn't buy fresh fruit or vegetables – and even employs a gardener.

Supported

She also pays out £50 a month on make-up and the same on premium Sky TV. Sue claims that all mothers should stay at home to look after their kids, meaning she has to be supported by the state.

Viewer Lauren Skelton who said watching the programme had made her 'so angry', wrote: "£20,000 a year on benefits. That's £8,000 more than I get for working 40 hours a week! Something is very wrong." While @Charly Richards tweeted: "I wish the Government would watch this programme and cut their benefits clean off or in half after knowing how much they get!"

But defending herself, Sue said: "I believe that women should be at home with the children. In an ideal world I would have a husband that would be able to provide for me. I have been in between marriages and the dads have left. Some people stay in marriage because they do not want to be alone, I'm not like that."

"I have to make sure that everything is in place for my children, which is a full time job in itself."

"It is really hard to be at home with the children, because you just have so many things to do. Other people are bitter towards my situation, but now it is my time to be able to sit with my kids and be with them. The people that know me think I work too hard."

FASHION STUDENT LUCY BAGS HER DREAM JOB



Walsall College fashion student Lucy Jones, aged 17, with managing director of Brady Bags Peter Wilkes, where she has now been offered a job

A WALSALL fashion student who designed a handbag for local manufacturer Brady Bags has now landed her dream job with the company.

Lucy Jones, a BTEC level three fashion student at Walsall College, designed three bags for a competition with Brady Bags that has seen prototypes flown out to Japan, China and Korea to be showcased to distributors to see if they will be suitable for the East Asian market.

After a stint of work experience, Lucy has now been offered a job with the firm. She

said: "Being offered a job before I've even finished college is a dream come true. I can't believe I'll be starting my career in fashion at the age of 17. It's been my ambition for such a long time so this is incredible."

"Working on a live industry brief for Brady really pushed me to work hard and use all the skills I have learnt at college on a real project. During my placement I learnt a lot about the industry and enjoyed seeing the whole factory process, from design to production. Now I can't wait to join Brady and start working on more designs."

Peter Wilkes, the MD of the company, added: "Throughout the whole process of this project, Lucy showed an incredible creative intuition for design; she is very in touch with changing fashion trends and what appeals to consumers."

"She met the brief with her ideas but also came up with something original, yet in keeping with our brand, demonstrating that she has the makings of becoming a great designer. We look forward to welcoming her on board our team in a few months, after she has completed her course."

COUNCIL

Mayor to celebrate the best of Walsall

WALSALL'S new mayor has said that she 'wants to celebrate all that is good' in the borough after being appointed to the role.

Councillor Kath Phillips was officially made Mayor this week replacing councillor Angela Underhill. Councillor Phillips has made the step up from deputy mayor to wear the prestigious robes and chain.



Mayor Phillips

Speaking on her appointment, she said: "The more I think about my role as Mayor, the more I want to celebrate all that is good in Walsall, from residents celebrating special events to the wonderful workforce of Walsall Council."

"I really hope everyone will support my Mayoral Charity which is Walsall Hospice."

POLICE

New public space order is days away

WALSALL'S first public space protection order will come into force next month on the Beechdale estate.

The order, which gives police powers to criminalise behaviour that is not normally criminal in a particular area, will be enforced from June 1.

Under the new order, it will be prohibited for people to engage in anti-social behaviour such as graffiti or verbal abuse, use vehicles to cause a nuisance to residents and play ball games.

Public Space Protection Orders, or PSPOs, came into existence last year.

ENCAMPMENT

Travellers trouble as common is targeted

TRAVELLERS have set up camp on Delves Common again – just days after a group was ordered to leave the site.

Caravans arrived on the site during the course of Sunday evening, following the removal of another group, which had pitched up on the same site opposite Delves Junior School last week.

Palfrey councillor Mohammed Nazir said: "We had just finished cleaning up the site so this is most unwelcome."

The playing fields at the common recently underwent a £400,000 upgrade.

INSIDE

GREAT RESULT FOR MATTHEW



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EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01543 465345
E-mail: walsall.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Sarah Jones
Tel: 01543 465341
E-mail: sarah.winfield-jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
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Noddy's bak 'ome with lift message



Noddy records lift messages

SLADE icon Noddy Holder has used the gift of his one-of-a-kind voice to help people find their way around Walsall's art gallery.

The Bloxwich-born singer, whose unique vocals helped the glam-rock group rise to the top of the charts in the 1970s, returned home to re-record lift announcements for The New Art Gallery in Walsall town centre recently.

Noddy recorded the original lift announcements back in 2000 when the gallery opened, however over the years the information has become outdated due to changes to some of the gallery floors.

Due to maintenance work a couple

of years ago Noddy's recording had to be taken off the lift system, prompting requests from the public for his return.

Chris Wilkinson, marketing officer at the gallery, said: "Unfortunately we weren't able to re-instate the recording straight away due to the costs involved. The gallery has continued to receive many requests from members of the public to re-instate Noddy's voice in our lifts."

In 2015 the gallery received a capital grant from Arts Council England which has helped replace and upgrade essential facilities throughout the building including major improvements to the public

lifts. With the work recently, Noddy was asked back to record a new version of the lift announcements and he was delighted to do so.

Noddy Holder said: "It's always a pleasure coming back to my home town, and I am always interested in what is going on at the New Art Gallery."

"I got a preview on Tuesday of some of the works soon to be exhibited, and will definitely be returning in a few weeks to see everything completed. Everyone should go and take a look, whether you are into art or not."

"There really is something for everybody, including the kids."

Taxi driver's role in £300,000 drugs ring

A TAXI driver played a significant role in two Black Country drug rings involving more than £300,000 worth of heroin and cocaine, a judge has ruled.

Father-of-two Omar Farooq owned one property and rented two others where the haul was found, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 28-year-old had been renting a flat in Fellows Park Gardens, Pleck, for more than seven months when drug dealer Ruhel Ahmed, aged 23, was spotted leaving the address and arrested on January 3, 2014.

He is now serving a six-year jail term. The flat in which heroin and cocaine valued at £62,000 was found, together with £13,500 cash, was described as a 'drug warehouse' that Ahmed, from Wednesbury Road, Walsall, managed.

Farooq claimed it was a 'bachelor pad'. He had maintained he stopped using the address and unofficially sub-let it. Farooq bought a house in Foster Street, Darlaston, for £90,000, in 2012, but did not move his family into the property until 2014. He also started to rent a £500-a-month flat in Ampleforth Drive, Willenhall, on a six-month lease.

Police secretly watched two men make regular trips to and from the flat over 12 days. The pair were in a Peugeot when stopped by officers outside the address on October 22. One had a bag, which held 11 street deals of heroin. Four phones were found and officers also raided the addresses at Ampleforth Drive and Foster Street linked to Farooq.

They found £6,000 cash and heroin valued at around £40,000 at the first of these while over £200,000 worth of the drug was in a tub carrying Farooq's fingerprints in the garage of the other property, revealed Mr James Dunstan, prosecuting.

Farooq confessed to knowing his garage was being used by class A drug dealers but said he did not know the quantity involved.

Judge Kristina Montgomery QC said: "These people were dealing in kilos of heroin that were then sold at street level and you played a significant role in the operation." The father of two, from Foster Street, admitted conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine on January 3, 2014 and conspiring to supply heroin. He was remanded in custody until next month.

Rapper's delight with Demi Rose



Tyga and Demi Rose pose in their shades for the cameras

SHE'S gone from health and beauty student at Walsall College to a lingerie model dating rapper Tyga.

Demi Rose Mawby, aged 21, has made headlines around the world after being seen cosying up to the 26-year-old American, who recently split from long-time on-again, off-again girlfriend Kylie Jenner.

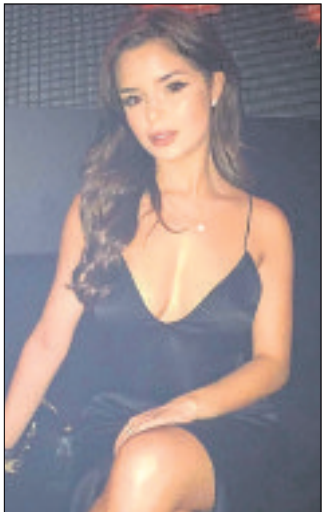
The pair have been spotted together at the Cannes Film Festival over the weekend and also while out on a shopping spree in Saint Laurent.

They also hung out together at the rapper's late-night gig at Gotha Club Cannes before spending time together at Nikki Beach. The 5ft 2in beauty, from Sutton Coldfield, has come a long way from her days at Walsall College where she was working towards her dream of opening her own beauty salon in Spain.

Now she has a million followers on Instagram and has modelled on the pages of magazines including WorldStar HipHop, FHM Magazine and M! Magazine Denmark. At Walsall College, Demi also studied Spanish.

She featured in an advertising campaign for the college in 2012 when she said it had helped her to expand her horizons and realise her full potential. On her modelling website she says: "I started modelling a year ago and it's been the best year of my life."

In an interview with the Daily Mail, her parents Barrie, 78, and Christine, 61, said she is a very different person at home and said they were proud of her. Former NHS wheelchair adviser Christine said: "When she's at home she's perfectly normal. She loves her cat Raggles."



Her modelling career has really taken off



Demi Rose when she was at Walsall College

Tributes for ex-steward at Saddlers who died, 22

TRIBUTES have been flooding in for a 22-year-old Saddlers fan who sadly passed away just 24 hours before Walsall started on their playoffs challenge.

Jake Martin, who worked as a steward at the Banks's Stadium for a period five years ago, died at Walsall Manor Hospital last Friday after a short illness.

His sister, Jessica, led the tributes: "This is difficult to say the last, it hasn't sunk in at all. My big brother Jake Martin passed away totally unexpected. My heart is broken, he'll never get to meet his baby nephew who he was so excited to meet."

The club, who described Jake as an 'outgoing, very happy young man', added: "Jake will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends'.

Hundreds of tributes have also come pouring in from Saddlers fans ahead of the first match against Barnsley.

Gail Gilbert said: "RIP Jake let's hope the lads do it for you tonight. Thoughts with your family xx." While SullyBear The club said Jake attended college locally and worked at the Village Hotel, near junction ten of the M6.

He last watched his team in a 5-0 win over Port Vale on the last day of the regular League One season on May 8.

His death came the day before Walsall's first play-off match against Barnsley

Students set to help with careers

STUDENTS from Walsall College have submitted their application to take part in the 'Champion of Champions' employability competition, run by the National Skills Academy for Financial Services.

The competition invites teams of up to five students, aged 16 to 25, to take on the role of employability champions at their college. Using their creativity, students are challenged to work together to plan and run an event to help their peers develop their employability skills, whilst developing their own in the process.

For further information about the Champion of Champion competition visit <http://www.nsafs.co.uk/employability/champion-of-champions-competition> or contact the National Skills Academy for Financial Services on 0845 618 2413.

Choir team up for summer concert

A COMMUNITY choir will team up with an orchestra for a summer concert.

The Bloxwich Community Choir and The Chase Light Orchestra will take to the stage at St Johns Church, Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich on June 24. Tickets costing £6 including refreshments will be available on the door from 7pm.

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Bird labels low turnout residents as being lazy

THE soon to be former leader of Walsall Council has hit out at 'lazy' residents in Walsall who didn't turn out at the polls in the local elections.

Conservative leader Councillor Mike Bird has wished the Labour and Liberal Democrat administration well but branded the 20-odd per cent turnout 'disgraceful'.

Councillor Bird added that his Conservative party would provide 'responsible opposition' and hold the next administration to account.

It was a disappointing election night for the Tories as they failed to gain ground in Walsall, and lost a key ally in independent councillor Pete Smith. With no seats gained and a voting partner lost, they were destined to lose control, with Labour forming a coalition with the Liberal Democrats.

But Councillor Bird does not have 'sour grapes' and has wished the best of luck to the incoming administration.

He said: "I wish them well. It is a difficult job and they will have difficult decisions to make as any administration would. Local government is all about numbers and if you don't have the numbers you don't win.

"It is not sour grapes but I have to say the turnout this year was disgraceful. There is no excuse not to vote, it is just laziness. These people will then complain at the decisions made by the administrations but I am sorry that is not how it works if you can't be bothered to get off your backside."

Plea over father hurt in car theft

A MAN was injured as he tried to stop thieves stealing his car in Walsall.

The callous car theft took place around 10.45am in St Pauls Crescent in Pelsall on Friday.

A black Ford Focus was stolen and later found burnt out in Bloxwich.

A post on Facebook, which shows the victim's shocking facial injuries, has been shared more than 2,000 times. Sarah Rounds, who uploaded the photo of who she says is her father, states alongside it: "My dad had his car stolen - black Ford Focus estate - and they left him like this, the car was found burnt out on Fishley Lane in Bloxwich not long after."

Masquerade ball to help hospice

A MASQUERADE ball will be held on June 18. The event, which will be held at Holiday Inn, Walsall, will include a three course meal, a red carpet arrival and a DJ and Disco. Tickets cost £20 each, with £5 of each ticket going to Acorn's Children's Hospice. For more information or to purchase a ticket, call 01922 618800 or email hiwalsall@kewgreen.co.uk

Daredevil bike stunt is wheel daft



The daredevil. Picture by Mercury Press

A DAREDEVIL biker pulled off an outrageous stunt as he balanced on one leg on his vehicle's seat while he overtook a car and passed through a speed camera.

The stunt, captured by driver Andrew Vickers' dashcam, saw the mad-cap motorcyclist stand on his bike for around 10 seconds - sitting down just as an oncoming police car appears over the brow of a hill.

Dad-of-two Andrew was with his eldest son Oliver, seven, who can be heard gasping as the bike overtakes them on Moseley Road in Willenhall.

The motorcyclist keeps both hands on the handlebars as he cruises down the 30mph road, through a speed camera, stood up on just his left leg.

Andrew, 41, said: "I was equally stunned and impressed. My first thought was: 'What an idiot'."

"I was about to indicate to turn right when I saw him coming up on the outside pretty fast. I naturally slowed down because there was a speed camera ahead. I was flabbergasted when I saw what he was doing. It was risky enough overtaking at a speed camera. Obviously as a parent

and a driver I thought it was crazy and totally unsafe. You can hear Oliver gasp and laugh so he clearly thought it was very impressive. The crazy thing was that just as he approached the brow of the hill, a police car came over. If he had been stood up for another second then surely he would have been caught."

Andrew, who is married to 41-year-old Sally and has another son, three-year-old Benjamin, was driving to his brother-in-law's house when he encountered the biker at around 12.30pm on Monday May 9.

Thousands of parents fined for term holidays

MORE than 3,900 parents in Walsall have been fined for taking their children on holiday during term time since 2012.

A total of 3,933 fines have been dished out from September 2012 to April 27, 2016, for unauthorised holidays being taken during school-time.

According to a Freedom of Information Act request, this equates to 49,061 days of teaching missed while pupils were out of school.

During the same period, 30 parents were taken to court for refusing to pay fines.

The figures come at a time when the High Court has ruled that a man was entitled to take his child out of school on holiday due to her good attendance record.

The decision casts doubt on punishing parents for term-time holidays according to some politicians, with schools minister Nick Gibb pledging to take all 'measures necessary' to overturn the decision.

Followed

Councillor Chris Towe, Walsall Council's cabinet member for education, said: "I am afraid I am one of these people who believe the children should be in school at all times. It is the law and should be followed - it is not put in place for no reason. A child should not be taken out of school for anything not appropriate and for me, holidays are not appropriate. Every day missed at school is a lost opportunity."

"Education at a young age is getting more and more important all of the time and taking your child out of school for a holiday is not the right thing to do. I understand parents are under financial pressures and they can get stung by travel agents in school holidays, but that does not excuse breaking the law."

The amount of fines dished out in Walsall jumped up considerably in 2014, from 638 in 2013/2014 to 1,412 in 2014/15. So far in this academic year, the figure stands at 1,199, up to April 27.

A total of 17 parents were taken to court in 2012/2013 and 13 in 2013/2014, however there have been no similar instances in the last two years. In 2013, former Education Secretary Michael Gove ended the right for schools to grant up to 10 days holiday per year for pupils.

Those that take children out without permission can be fined £60 per child, rising to £120 if it is not paid in 21 days. Failure to pay the fine can result in prosecution.

Family geared up for Cole's bike bid



Cole Richards, aged six, with his family dad Callum, mum Amy and sister Kaci, five, from Bloxwich

A FAMILY is raising funds to get their disabled son a bike that could completely change his life.

Six-year-old Cole Richards suffers from cerebral palsy. He struggles to play with other children and can't fully enjoy his trips outdoors. But a new bike, specifically designed and fitted so that he can use it, would give the Abbey Primary School pupil a new level of freedom.

His mother Amy, 34, said that the device would have a huge impact on Cole's life. "As he's getting older, he's starting to feel different from his friends," she

said. "He feels he can't do the same sort of things as they do, and maybe they think he can't do them either. I try to tell him that he can play, he just needs to play differently, but it's not that easy."

"When we told him about this bike, he thought he wouldn't be able to ride it, but as soon as he tested it he was so happy. He was smiling from ear to ear."

Amy said she and Cole's father Callum were speechless when they saw him test the bike. "I was almost crying," she said. "I couldn't even talk I was so happy."

"The bike will build up the mus-

cles in his leg and he'll be able to go outside more."

"If he can get it, he'll be able to use it in PE at school. Then he could join in with the rest of the class."

The family, who live on Glastonbury Crescent, Bloxwich, including Cole's five-year-old sister Kaci, are doing everything they can to get the bike, including bake sales and fun runs.

But they would also like help from the public to help reach their £1,300 target. For more information, or to donate, visit crowdfunding.justgiving.com/Colesnewbike

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rubbish blaze in derelict building

FIRE crews tackled a blaze involving tyres and rubbish in Wednesbury. The incident took place in Darlaston Road at around 3pm on Sunday.

It is believed the fire was beside a derelict building. A West Midlands Fire Service spokesperson said: "The fire involved vehicle tyres and general rubbish which were on fire in a yard."

"They were also adjacent to a large quantity of steel drums."

"We received a call just after 3pm and sent four engines from Bilston, Wednesbury, Willenhall and West Bromwich."

Poet takes over writing group

WRITER and poet Nathan Lunt is taking over as leader of the Walsall Young Writers' Group which meets monthly at the New Art Gallery.

Designed for those aged eight to 14, with an interest in writing, the group meets on Saturdays at Walsall's Art Library inside the gallery, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

The group meets on September 17, October 15, November 19, December 3, January 21, February 11, March 18, April 22, May 20 and June 24.

For details go to www.writingwest-midlands.org

College launching new IT academy

WALSALL College will support the borough's first ever business week by opening a new IT hub. The Walsall Business Week has been set up to showcase businesses of all sizes and from all sectors across the borough.

The college will launch its new digital Academy on June 6, the first day of the business week. The academy has been set up to help address a growing shortage of digital skills and bridge the gap between industry and education.

Hole in the Wall plans submitted

PLANS have been submitted for the next phase of the transformation of a building destroyed by fire in Walsall town centre. Part of the Hole in the Wall fabric shop was gutted by flames in 2004 and it lost all of its stock.

Yet it managed to reopen within three months and now - more than a decade on - the transformation of the neighbouring building in High Street which will become flats, is taking shape. New plans have been submitted for three apartments at the site.

Woman found safe

MISSING Aldridge woman Ruth Smith has been found safe and well in Blackpool.

Ms Smith, who disappeared from her Walsall home on April 15, was found on Thursday. West Midlands Police thanked people for their support during the appeal.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SUNBURN on Monday, soaked on Tuesday, sunburn on Wednesday. God, I love Scotland.

THE weather varied from blazing sunshine to that dense grey drizzle that the Scots call dreich and on to that persistent precipitation that the Scots call pussen-doon. The great thing about the rain, as one Scot explained, is that it keeps the midges quiet. It is a great land for counting your blessings.

ONE blessing of being a Scot is to be better informed than those terrible people south of the border. The Scots have a separate legal system which means they all know the identity of the world-famous showbiz couple involved in a three-way tryst whose secrecy is so jealously protected in England by our wonderful Supreme Court. "Oh, you mean that business about ****?" (asterisks for the benefit of the English), said one local when I started the conversation. "We've known about that for ages. To be honest, I'm not in the least interested in what **** has been up to." This makes the fascinating legal point that what interests the public is not necessarily in the public interest, and even if something is in the public interest, it doesn't mean the public is remotely interested.

SCOTLAND over, we headed back down the M6 in blinding spray. Why is it so many motorists refuse to put on their headlights in such conditions? To be fair, some drivers were very busy texting.



AFTER a week without newspapers I pick up the Daily Mail where pundit Peter Osborne suggests our next prime minister could be the silly

Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt. The silly season starts earlier every year.

MY own view on public interest is that journalists should find out stuff and print it in the newspapers because otherwise the papers would be full of blank pages and nobody would buy them. Go on, call me an intellectual.

DID it not seem strange in the hours following the EgyptAir disaster, that no terrorist organisation claimed responsibility? France is Islamic State's prime target and Egypt its sworn enemy. To make such a high-profile attack on both nations would be a feather in IS's cap. This item may be overtaken by events and it may be that some terror group will produce convincing proof that it did the killing. But we should remember there is one thing far more terrifying than an airliner that falls out of the sky because of terrorism, and that is an airliner that falls out of the sky all by itself.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

HS2 concerns over lack of mainline link

THERE are 'significant' challenges to overcome if HS2 is to benefit the Black Country and wider West Midlands, transport experts have said in a new report.

The Independent Transport Commission said it was a 'concern' that two new high-speed stations in the region would not directly link with existing trains. And it also called for rail services' improvements. It

said: "The Greater Birmingham and West Midlands region has significant challenges to overcome in effectively integrating HS2 with local and regional transport networks.

"With improved connectivity to London and its own international airport, Birmingham can boost the regions' economic offering and continue to attract an international labour market by positioning itself as

a desirable destination both as an alternative and a complement to the London economic region."

But it added: "Although the region will be served by two HS2 stations, there are reasons for concern. Without a direct rail link and a cross-platform connection between classic and high-speed rail, excellent passenger information and education will be essential alongside conveniences such

as smart and integrated ticketing," it said. HS2 will cost £55.7 billion linking London and Birmingham before forking off to Manchester and Leeds.

The line will cut through 45 miles of Staffordshire countryside. A nine-mile spur is set to connect the high-speed line with Stafford station but that section has been thrown into doubt amid a review led by Cabinet Secretary Jeremy Heywood.

Uber starts up in area with taxis from apps

CONTROVERSIAL taxi firm Uber launched in the Black Country, with services in Wolverhampton, Dudley and Walsall.

Uber - which has sparked protests from traditional cabbies elsewhere - sees customers download an app, which allows them to order a car directly from the nearest driver. They then get details of the estimated waiting time and cost.

It already operates in Birmingham, but now customers will be able to use the uberX app in the Black Country for the first time.

The firm, known for its low prices, has said a journey from the Molineux to Birmingham's New Street Station could cost around £23, while a journey from Wolverhampton Racecourse to the Mander Centre could cost around £4.50.

Pouzan Ali, Uber's general manager in the Midlands, said: "We're really excited to be officially announcing our launch in the Black Country. Uber has been a huge success in Birmingham, having been embraced by both riders and private hire drivers."

He said the firm had branched out in the region due to demand from customers.

"The company has also applied for a licence to operate in Sandwell and Mr Ali said he was 'confident' it would be approved. No application has yet been made to operate in Staffordshire, but Mr Ali said it was 'definitely something we would consider'.

"In the last 90 days alone, 20,000 people tried to get an Uber, but they couldn't, so what we have done is responded to that and we wanted to provide the service."

Wetherspoon pubs put on the market

A WALSALL town centre pub and one in Lichfield are among 33 being sold by the J D Wetherspoon chain.

It closed The Imperial in Darwell Street, Walsall, in March and is also selling The Gatehouse in Bird Street, Lichfield.

The pubs group, which owns nearly 1,000 pubs, has sold a number of its sites in recent months to rival chains.

Most of the 33 are in London and the south of England, but the list also includes The Solomon Cutler in Birmingham and Tamworth's Silk Kite.

Music with real bite set for venue

YOUNG Wolverhampton band Jump The Shark have a headline gig at The Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, on Wednesday.

The winners of a BRIT award for up and coming young talent, the quartet features singer and drummer Tasha Jones, guitarists Theo Williams and Jon Murphy, and Matt Gregory on bass.

Traders on high alert after spate of raids

Report by Jordan Harris

SHOP keepers in Willenhall are on high alert after a series of break-ins since the start of the month.

Business owners in the town say they have been told by police that there have been 25 burglaries this month.

Some traders are claiming they are scared to be alone in their shop and others saying they will move if the trouble continues.

Andy Newell, who owns family run photography studio Blu Photography said he has been targeted twice by the thieves, who have stole around £5,000 worth of equipment including MacBook's and cameras.

He said: "I am absolutely sick of this and something needs to be done. We are a small business, like a lot of others in the town and we can't afford to lose valuable equipment. At the moment it feels like all of our money is going on repairing damage caused by these thieves or trying to get new equipment so we can continue working."

Worrying

"I haven't been in the town too long and the people here are lovely, we really do like it here but if this carries on I will have to leave."

"We have been told by police that there have been 25 break-ins since the start of the month and that is extremely worrying." Other shops targeted include Bet Fred, a Cancer Research charity shop which has had to temporarily close, shoe shop Blunts and Scissors Hairdressers.

Willenhall councillor Sean Coughlan said the situation needed to be looked into by police and Walsall Council. He said: "I will be looking to speak to West Midlands Police and the council about it. We need a CCTV upgrade because burglaries happen in the town and when we try and track down who is culpable we hit a wall."

West Midlands Police confirmed a Walsall man has appeared before Walsall and Aldridge magistrates accused of a series of crimes in Willenhall in April and May.

Pupils go feet first into national initiative



Co-ordinator Stephanie Lake, with Park Hall students during the 'let's walk together' scheme

MORE than 20,000 Walsall schoolchildren put their best feet forward as part of a national initiative.

Pupils from more than 60 primary schools in the borough have joined the nationwide initiative, Walk to School Week, held last week. In addition to the health benefits, the annual campaign highlights the importance of road safety issues.

Walsall's initiative is being promoted as part of the local A*Stars Programme (Active Sustainable Travel and Road Safety) which is a series of walking, wheeling and road safety initiatives, along with training, expertise and support that is given to schools to help them to develop and promote safer, healthier lifestyle choices for all. One of the schools who held a walk was Park Hall Junior Academy, who were joined by Park Hall Infant Academy. About 130 children and adults went on the walk last Monday which could now lead to something more permanent.

Karen Petrucco, one of the A*Stars coordinators, said: "We were really pleased with the walk, it went far better than we anticipated. We are going to map out a five minute walk zone now ready for September and hopefully the parents will be able to park and then walk in to school with their children from that zone."

Councillor Adrian Andrew, who is taking part in the initiative with his own children, said: "It is a perfect opportunity for some quality family time and to have a good chat with friends on the way to school."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Bereavement service praised

TEENAGE volunteers who help run a local support group for young people suffering with family loss received praise after speaking about their experiences at a national conference.

Phoenix at St Giles, part of the St Giles Hospice charity, offers support services to children affected by bereavement. Members of the group, launched in 2014, were invited to speak to health professionals at a conference in Leeds, organised by the National Council for Palliative Care.

Toby Scott, communications manager for NCPC, said: "The Phoenix group stood out for their quiet determination not to be silenced by the trauma of losing a loved one."

Anyone interested in supporting the group's fundraising efforts, or volunteering, should contact Ian Leech on 01543 434 535 or ian.leech@stgiles-hospice.com.

Man was found dead in house

A 50-YEAR-OLD man was found dead in his home after neighbours were alerted by his barking dog.

Neil Elsam was thought to have been dead in his home in Springhill, near Brownhills, for a few days when he was discovered on February 14.

An inquest at Cannock Coroner's Court heard that he had been suffering from hypothermia. Police were called to the house in Walsall Road. South Staffordshire coroner Andrew Haigh said he could not rule the death to be natural causes, as Mr Elsam had been suffering hypothermia. He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Pub to make way for homes

A VANDAL-HIT former pub in Wednesbury will be bulldozed and replaced by 13 homes, under new plans.

Proposals for the Cottage Inn in Wood Green Road have been submitted to Sandwell Council.

Two three-bed houses and 11 two-bed houses will be built on the site.

A design and access statement submitted as part of the planning package states: "At present the land is unused and derelict, it is the site of a public house which is still to be demolished."

"The pub was out of use and fell into decay when it was vandalised, subject to squatting and fire damage."

Council planners will rule on the scheme in due course.

Choir teams up with orchestra for concert

A COMMUNITY choir will team up with an orchestra for a summer concert. The Bloxwich Community Choir and The Chase Light Orchestra will take to the stage at St Johns Church, Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich on June 24 to perform songs from Les Miserables, Chicago, The Sound of Music and more. Tickets costing £6 including refreshments will be available on the door from 7pm.

Hundreds of pets are stolen, say new figures

STAFFORDSHIRE bull terriers, canaries, carp and a cockerel are among the range of pets reported stolen to West Midlands Police in the past three years.

A Freedom of Information request made by the Express & Star revealed that a total of 175 pet thefts were reported but just 11 people – less than 10 per cent, were charged or had further action taken against them in connection with the offences.

There were 56 recorded crimes in 2013, 64 in 2014 and 55 last year.

In terms of those who were charged or had further action taken against them, there were five in 2013, two in 2014 and four last year.

The majority of pets taken were dogs, including Jack Russells, pugs and an American bulldog.

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson recently encouraged dog owners to get their pets micro-chipped after being contacted about a spate of dog thefts in the area.

Deter

"Our pets are part of our family and there is understandable distress when an animal is lost or stolen from a family home," he said. "It is certainly not acceptable that dogs are being stolen and I hope that with micro-chipping becoming compulsory this will deter people in the future."

The data released from West Midlands Police also revealed that in 2013, there were 11 birds, 31 dogs, two cats, one reptile and two horses stolen. Also stolen was specialist fish – a koi carp, a snake, two carp, two sheep, a kitten, a guinea pig, chicken and a duck.

In 2014, 16 birds, 28 dogs, two cats, one reptile and two horses were taken.

A number of hens, budgies, pigeons, as well as two carp, sheep and eight rabbits.

Library works finish put back

REPAIRS at an historic library will take an additional six weeks after a damaging leak was mended.

Councillor Diane Coughlan hit out at lack of progress at Willenhall Library on Walsall Street where work to repair a leak and other problems started more than a month ago.

She said a scanning machine in the library had suffered water damage as a result and the walls were mouldy, with cracking plasterwork.

Today Chris Holliday, head of leisure, culture and operations at Walsall Council, said the leak has been fixed but it was found in the process that a down pipe had also been blocked. The obstruction has since been cleared.

He said: "We now need to ensure that the internal finishes within the building have dried out before repairing and redecorating. It is anticipated that this work should be complete within the next six weeks."

Gardeners' blooming great royal time



Councillor Kath Phillips with Jean Shaw

TWO keen Walsall gardeners met the Queen after getting a surprise invite to her annual garden party.

Jean Shaw and Dave Harrison were given a huge surprise after they were taken to one side by their managers at work to be told that they had been selected by Walsall Council to represent the borough at the special royal event at Buckingham Palace.

The Garden Party invites were a mark of appreciation from her Majesty's Household for their longstanding service in Walsall – Jean, for her commitment to the education of children,

and Dave for his work as a Trade Union representative. Jean, from the Schools Library Support Service, said: "I couldn't believe it when my manager told me."

"I thought she was having me on, but I was straight on to the phone to tell my husband."

Nominated

"He thought I was pulling his leg too, but we were over the moon when our invitation arrived."

Dave added: "This was a real surprise, so thanks to my council col-

leagues who nominated me, although I don't know how they kept it quiet for so long."

Asked what he'd thought about meeting the Queen, he joked: "I didn't get too close, if I had I'd have told her she was doing a great job too, and ask her if she'd ever thought about joining a company union."

Councillor Kath Phillips, who is shortly to become the new Mayor of Walsall, also accompanied David and Jean to Buckingham Palace.

She said: "We all had a wonderful time at the garden party."

Asbestos exposure probe follows death

SPECIALIST lawyers are investigating the death of a Walsall man who contracted mesothelioma, an incurable cancer caused by exposure to asbestos.

John Farmer died at the age of 84 back in August 2013 after a year-long battle with the disease.

Before he died he believed he had been exposed to asbestos while working as a die caster at the Aluminium Bronze Company Limited, in Wallows Lane, Walsall, where he worked from 1959 and 1980.

He recalled the foundry building he worked in containing asbestos, as many buildings did between the 1960s and 80s, in the roof structure and also the pipework of the building.

The HM Coroner for the Black Country returned a conclusion of death by an industrial disease at an inquest on March, 13, 2014 and now his family have instructed lawyers to look into his death. John's widow Jill, 75, and daughters, Linda and Wendy, have instructed specialist asbestos-related disease lawyers at Irwin Mitchell to investigate how and where he was exposed to the material at work.

Questions

Linda, aged 53, said: "It was absolutely terrible for us to see Dad go through so much pain and suffering as he battled mesothelioma. To find out the disease may have been caused by his exposure to asbestos at work has left us with a number of unanswered questions. We are now appealing to his former colleagues to help us understand how he was exposed to asbestos at work and what was done to protect him and those who worked alongside him."

Satinder Bains, a Partner and expert asbestos-related disease lawyer at Irwin Mitchell representing the family, added: "In the UK more than 2,500 people die every year from mesothelioma and the disease can cause a great deal of pain and suffering for victims. His family have been left devastated by his death and they are now looking for answers about how and where he was exposed to the asbestos."

"We would like to hear from anyone who worked alongside John at Aluminium Bronze Company Limited who can provide details of the presence of asbestos and the measures, if any, in place to protect workers."

Anyone with information should contact on 0121 214 5281 or email Satinder.Bains@Irwin-Mitchell.com.

Councillors on the ball for vote



Councillors Marco Longhi and Gary Perry launch the Brexit campaign in Walsall ahead of the referendum

THE vote leave campaign ahead of this summer's EU referendum has been launched in Walsall.

Councillor Gary Perry launched the local campaign in Pelsall, and in Bloxwich the next weekend. He said the referendum 'should be a talking point for people'.

Councillor Perry said: "In a nutshell the EU referendum is coming up and what we found on the doorstep for the local election is that people want a say but they

are not getting much information about it – apart from that controversial government leaflet."

"The purpose of Saturday was to launch the vote leave campaign in Walsall. We were asking people to place a coloured ball in a box to see whether they would vote in or out. There were a few people saying they were going to vote in and that is their choice, my vote is no more powerful than anyone else's. It was a good day and we even had

people coming from Wolverhampton to get involved."

"It is going to be the biggest say we have had on the county's future direction since the last referendum. Locally we are trying to do our bit, we are bringing the referendum to the borough. The big issue for me is that we have had to make so many savings whilst we give a lot of money every week to the EU and I certainly haven't seen any benefit for Walsall."

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Response to tiff sure takes some bleating

WE'VE all been there. Thomas Thwaites was feeling a bit down in the dumps, his job wasn't going as well as he would have liked, and he'd had a tiff with his girlfriend. So he did what any of us would have done. He decided to become a goat. I kid you not.

First of all, he had some prosthetic hooves fitted, and started walking around on all fours. Then he put on a rather strange white hat, which made him look like a Star Wars character. Or one of those bolshie cyclists who go through red traffic lights.

But the 34-year-old didn't have it all his own way. He asked a neuroscientist if he could shut down part of his brain, to make him think like a goat, but for some reason the technology hasn't been perfected yet.

They couldn't alter his digestive system so he could live on raw grass, either, so he had to take a pressure cooker along with him. Which didn't go down terribly well in the goat community.

Anyway, he spent six days living on the Alps, hobbling around on all fours and sleeping in a barn. He's also written a book about it, which you're no doubt itching to read.

He also reckons he made a goat friend, although they all left him behind when they decided to migrate.

National Union of Mountain Goats spokesman Goatee McGoatface was unimpressed.

He said: "He looked nothing like a goat, we just thought he was a strange man having an early mid-life crisis. But we would have been more impressed if he had bought a Harley Davidson."

By the way, the Wellcome Trust medical charity gave him £29,000 for his work. You're telling me that is not value for money?

■■■

FILMING has reportedly been taking place around Birmingham for a sequel to action movie Kingsman: The Secret Service, which starred Colin Firth as a dapper security chief.

Having had high hopes for the film, which I thought would be a stylish witty movie along the lines of The Avengers, I have to say it was one of the dafdest things I had seen.

But still, it is good to see the West Midlands getting a bit of exposure on the big screen, although it's a shame they didn't choose the Black Country instead.

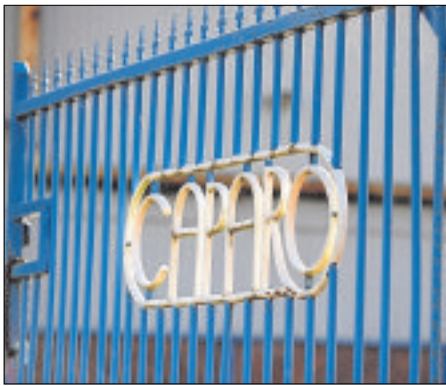
Gunfights on the big wheel in Dudley, speedboat chases on the cut in Bilston, what's not to like?

What's more, I'm sure they could rustle up some shenanigans at the West Brom Casino.

These movie types have got no imagination, that's the trouble. That's why they always make sequels.



Jobs to go? The Wolverhampton BHS store



The Caparo name on gates at Popes Lane in Oldbury



Darlaston's Caparo factory, hit by job losses

Unemployment may be back on the rise

JOHN CORSER looks at the growing spectre of job losses which might lead to worrying increases in unemployment

THERE are worrying signs that unemployment in the West Midlands is on the rise despite the number in work in the region hitting a record high of 2.65 million.

With the impact of the possible closure of British Gas's offices in Oldbury and potential job losses in the wake of the collapse of retail chain BHS it is feared that the trend of rising numbers in work and fewer people claiming unemployment benefits could reverse.

Unemployment fell in the UK in the period January to March and a record 31.5 million people are in work, but there is evidence that the jobs market could be "cooling off".

Unemployment dipped by just 2,000 in the quarter to 1.69 million and has fallen by 139,000 over the past year.

Redundancies

In the West Midlands the number out of work was up by 8,000 for the three months, but for the year is down by 24,000.

The region has been hit by a number of business closures and redundancies in recent months including the collapse of Caparo Industries which had sites across the Black Country.

The national claimant count was down by 2,400 last month to 737,800 and job vacancies were down by 18,000 to 745,000, the first fall for almost a year.

The numbers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance and other unemployment benefits in the West Midlands rose 390 to 80,745 - 2.3 per cent of the working population - last month.

Dudley saw the highest rise in the Black Country with numbers claiming up 185 to 5,540 (2.9 per cent). Sandwell rose 180 to 7,085 (3.6 per cent), Walsall by 150 to 4,650



British Gas's Swallowfield One premises in Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

(2.8 per cent) and Wolverhampton was up 40 to 6,570 (4.1 per cent).

Staffordshire was up 30 to 5,040 (0.9 per cent) with Stafford rising by 20 to 630 (0.8 per cent). Cannock Chase was down five to 735 (1.2 per cent) with no change in Lichfield (400, 0.7 per cent) and South Staffordshire (710, one per cent).

The number of claimants in Wyre Forest, which includes Kidderminster, fell by 55 to 695 (1.2 per cent).

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Stephen Crabb, said: "These are another record-breaking set of figures, with more people in work than ever before and the unemployment rate is at the lowest in a decade at 5.1 per cent.

"There is great news in the West Midlands as the number of people in work continues to grow - up 30,000 over the past year alone -

bringing total employment to a record 2.65 million.

"More people in work means that more families across the UK are benefitting from the security of a regular wage and the fulfilment that employment brings."

David Freeman, a senior statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said: "The employment rate has hit another record high, but this time the increase is quite modest.

Buoyant

With unemployment very little changed, that is further evidence the jobs market could be cooling off."

But business development spokesman for JobCentre Plus in Wolverhampton Cathy Taylor said that there were still a lot of jobs coming on to market in the Black Country and surrounding areas.



Work and pensions secretary Stephen Crabb

"The labour market is still buoyant and there are a lot of jobs out there. Some bigger employers and even some smaller ones are taking on additional staff. We have small businesses coming in to the JobCentre asking for new people. In manufacturing there are a lot of packing roles available and warehousing firms are looking for forklift truck drivers particularly at the i54 site.

"From the summer onwards we expect Amazon at Rugeley to be stepping up recruitment and in the hospitality sector national companies are recruiting across the Black Country, particularly in Wolverhampton. The casino in Temple Street, Wolverhampton, is also after trainee croupiers," she explained.

Mrs Taylor said the retail sector in Wolverhampton was expected to pick up once the redevelopment of the Mander Centre was completed.



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Richard's link to theatre classic in 50th year

THIS year is the 50th anniversary of Look Back in Anger by John Osborne, a play that came out at in1956, the same year as the film The Prince and The Showgirl, starring Marilyn Monroe, and Walsall's very own Richard Wattis.

During the making of that film Arthur Miller, Marilyn's then husband, went to see Look Back in Anger at the Royal Court Theatre in London and wrote about the experience in his autobiography.

But what is hardly known is the fact that about the same time, Richard

Wattis, on leave from the film set, and holidaying with his family in Walsall, went to see The Importance Of Being Earnest at The Grange Theatre on Broadway North in Walsall. He was with his mother and aunt.

He had starred in the film version of that film which starred Margaret Rutherford and Michael Redgrave, during 1952. Richard also starred in a Hitchcock classic in 1956 called The Man Who Knew Too Much, starring Doris Daywhich gave us one of the greatest songs in the world Que Sera Sera, sung by Doris Day. I mentioned Richard to

her in an e-mail a few years back and referred to my 2005 biography about him, which is now in the Archive Centre in Essex Street, Walsall. Amazingly she sent me a signed photo of herself.

The interesting thing about John Osborne and Richard Wattis was that Richard was born in the Midlands (Wednesbury) and died in London (Chelsea), while John was born in London (Fulham) and died in the Midlands (Clun). It is funny how various stories inter-link.

I PAYNE
Walsall

Sympathy for smokers' high costs

LET me make one thing clear, I am not a smoker but here is a question for the anti-smoking brigade and the people that say that smokers are a drain on the NHS.

Friends have just come back from one of the Greek islands and they bought a popular brand of cigarettes while they were there, they worked out at £ 3 a packet.

So why is it that to buy them in this country they are almost £ 8 a packet?

Obviously the rest is made up of government taxes which makes me ask where does that money go?

It seems to me that the smokers of this country pay their fare share towards NHS care with the tax that they pay on each packet.

The problem with the NHS is that too many people who have not paid into the system get treated for nothing and this is what is causing the drain on society not the average person that smokes.

I HUNTER
Willenhall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

A reluctance to try bringing in change

IN response to R C Ellis's letter, in the Chronicle, on May 12. From time to time, some others delight in telling me what I am thinking by saying 'you believe'. It is possible I can agree with others, on many subjects, including religion.

It certainly is not true that I accept their ideas as dogma. Surely it is difficult for science and religion to unite – science tends towards common ground, truth, via experimentation and publication of varying ideas to progress. Religions have existed for such long periods of time, maintaining the teaching of their prophets, despite the many variations in interpretations, then parents are continuously passing their standing culture onto their children.

Which leads to my thinking, with the recent local elections, despite all the various failings, for many decades, of Walsall Council, the electorate have decided to re-elect the same people, same political party, with the same leadership. The bragging by councillors, of maintaining services despite government budget cuts, has to be the proof of the inefficiencies and wastes that exist. I despair in the reluctance to recognise that changes are needed.

RAY HAMMOND
Aldridge

Doubts on principles of Corbyn

MOST political journalists say that Jeremy Corbyn stands and believes by what he says and has principles, even though a lot of people don't agree with his views.

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Saddlers fan Matthew's prize booty



Saddlers fan Matthew Dodd, who has won a Kia Picanto, after successfully kicking balls into the boot

A DIE-HARD Walsall supporter won the surprise of a lifetime at half time in the Saddlers' game against Fleetwood Town.

Saddlers fan Matthew Dodd, aged 40, won a new car during the break in the team's 3-1 win on May 2.

The Kia Picanto, was top prize in a competition in the match day programme set up between the club and the Kia dealership which is based in Burntwood.

Mr Dodd, who last missed a Walsall game away at Millwall in 2005 when the coach broke down, was delighted with the win.

The van driver, who hails from Great Wyrley said: "I haven't got it yet but I'm going to keep it because it's a brand new car."

"I was over the moon to have won. I've never really won anything before and that was the first thing with quite a bit value."

Destination

"I've spent a lot of money supporting Walsall over the years so I suppose I've got some of it back now."

"I knew I had a bit of a chance at the start but there's probably a lot of people that go all the games and don't

enter the competition." To reach the final, those taking part had to have gone to every single home and away match - taking a photograph at every single destination.

And each image featured in the match day programme from the opening day until the final league game.

It all came down to the final three, who were represented by former Walsall players Harry Harris, Shaun Geddes and George Bowerman.

But it was Geddes who sent Matthew to victory as he kicked the biggest number of footballs into the car's boot.

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Rail electrification is well on track



MP Valerie Vaz unveils the plaque which shows the start of the rail project is under way

WORK to deliver speedier journeys between Walsall and Rugeley by electrifying the line are on track. Valerie Vaz, Walsall South MP, and Amanda Milling, MP for Cannock Chase, met with workers on site to see the work that has already taken place.

The £36 million project by Network Rail, which will be completed in December 2017, will provide passengers on the Chase Line with faster and quieter journeys.

The main works have started after a programme of track lowering and bridge reconstruction.

Commuters are being warned to expect closures and delays next summer. Future activity will include track work to provide for faster trains, signalling changes and the replacement of Bloxwich level crossing with a footbridge and traffic diversions to ensure the area is safe. Electric trains will be on the track and ready for use by May 2018.

Valerie Vaz, who unveiled a plaque commemorating the start of the works, said: "I'm so pleased and delighted that this project is part of the Walsall infrastructure and the borough will see huge benefits when it starts to run."

The work has seen 180 jobs created in the town as Network Rail focused on employing people who live locally.

Ms Milling added: "Over the last six months one of the biggest issues I've faced is the difficulty with the Chase Line, in particular over-crowding and so seeing a better service is something I am keen on. The Designer Outlet Village positioned where it is so close and it's ideal for getting people to use rail services as well as roads."

Chiefs told to protect Chase for the future

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council should seek a partner to help run Cannock Chase and Chasewater in an effort to cut costs, a report has suggested.

The council vowed not to sell any part of its countryside estate portfolio last year despite the fact some land is considered to be a drain on the public purse.

By Jordan Harris

The vow came following a huge public backlash after bosses said they would consider selling sites such as Cannock Chase to save money. More than 7,000 people signed a petition against the site's potential sale.

Now, following a public consultation, the county council's Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee will suggest the council looks at bringing in another organisation to oversee management.

Innovative

The report says 138 individuals, groups and organisations have expressed interest in working with the county council on this project. A report put together by Councillor Mark Winnington on the proposal reads: "The review is

about looking for new and innovative ways to manage the countryside estate so that it is more affordable to run and delivers better outcomes for Staffordshire's residents.

"However, since our promotion campaign has been launched explaining the proposals that the Chase and all other sites are to remain in county council ownership and that sale had never been an option only a total of 555 felt the need to comment during the consultation."

Other sites include 52 acres of land at Wimblebury Road, Cannock, Broad Lane in Essington and a patch in the village of Branton, which are not used by the public and bosses said costed 'thousands' a year to maintain.

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Sporty troupe are ahead of the game



Year 9 and 10 youngsters who hope to be future sports leaders after the training workshop

A GROUP of pupils from Year 9 and 10 are aspiring to be future sports leaders after attending a leadership training workshop.

The sporty bunch were nominated by Streetly Academy PE teachers Miss Fairbrother and Mr Lawrence and spent an afternoon at Wolverhampton University along with pupils from other schools. The event was delivered as part of the national Youth Sport charity's Trust Sporting Promise programme, and saw the group trying their hands at a range of new and unusual sports including dance cheer, ultimate Frisbee and jump rope. The afternoon also involved a number of hands-on leadership sessions.

Takeaway closed for nine days as droppings found

A TAKEAWAY was closed for nine days and ordered to pay thousands of pounds after mouse droppings were found inside the building.

Environmental health officers took action against Spicy Land in Harden Road, Walsall, following a site visit last month.

Officers said the droppings had placed the public's health at risk and they had decided to take action against the business for failing 'outside the required hygiene standards'.

Legal action was taken against director, Ibrar Kabir, and the company itself. Both pleaded guilty at Walsall Magistrates' Court to three offences of failing to comply with health and safety rules. Both were fined £1,000 for each of the three offences, and ordered to pay £2,204 costs and a victim surcharge of £300.

David Elrington, the council's regulatory services manager, said: "Food business operators must carry out regular checks as mice are not always visible but evidence of their activity should be.

"Mice spread diseases such as salmonella and their faeces can contaminate food products thereby placing the public's health at risk."

Spicy Land on Harden Road was ordered to close for a period of nine days in April 2015 after a visit from officers who found mouse droppings inside the premises.

As a result of the conditions found during the visit legal action was taken against the director Ibrar Kabir, and the company with both pleading guilty at Walsall Magistrates' Court to three offences of failing to comply with health and safety rules.

Both were subsequently fined £1,000 for each of the three offences and also ordered to pay £2,204 costs, with a victim surcharge of £300 from each party.

Bridge used by jobs is blocked off

BARRIERS have been installed on a Walsall bridge after it became a congregating spots for youths throwing rocks off it.

Campaigners, led by Pel-sall councillor Gary Perry, had been trying for a while to address the issue at Fordbrook Bridge off Fordbrook Lane.

Now after several years the barriers are in place.

Councillor Perry said: "We have managed to get safety barriers on the top to stop people throwing stuff over."

"After several years of raising awareness of the problem we now have a solution in place.

"My hope now is that it does not become a challenge.

"We are pleased we have got the barriers but pleased with trepidation. It is sad that we have had to do it in the first place.

"We are losing the risks of people being hit by rocks.

"Aesthetically the barriers do not look too bad either, people say they fit in."

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Dementia care group flicks back to the past

A SPECIALIST dementia housing scheme in Walsall has opened the doors on a dementia-friendly cinema.

The vintage-style cinema has traditional curtains, decor, seats and popcorn available, and is based at The Watermill care home on Goscote Lane.

Housing & Care 21, which runs the home, says it is part of a commitment to support residents living with dementia by stimulating their memories.

The Watermill has now been open five years and launched the cinema as part of a special open day. Walsall's Mayor, Councillor Angela Underhill, cut the ribbon on the new cinema with the help of residents from The Watermill, which is owned and managed by the not-for-profit housing provider.

The Watermill day care manager Joy Sumner said: "It was a fantastic event for everyone and we had a brilliant turnout."

Possible

"The cinema is part of our continuing efforts to create an environment which helps our residents live full and happy lives."

"It looks fantastic but it was only made possible by the fundraising efforts of Paul Wallbank, whose mother-in-law attends our day centre, and help from a lot of people."

"We see every day that with the right support and stimulation people with dementia can still live very fulfilling lives."

"I'm very proud of everyone here for the hard work they have put in over the last five years and it was great to be able to reward the team for that."

The event also featured entertainment from a professional singer and a 1940s and 50s dance group and awards were presented to members of the



A 1940s singer entertains the crowd



Residents get into the swing of things



Aiming to help 9,000 with dementia

team to recognise their outstanding contribution. It also saw the launch of Housing & Care 21's national Make a Friend campaign to help 9,000 of its residents become Dementia Friends. It coincides with the Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Awareness Week, which took place last week.



Symoy Green with resident Kath Barker

The Watermill is a specialist residential care facility for people living with dementia with day centre facilities.

The opening of the cinema follows the opening of the first ever dementia-friendly pub at the scheme last May.

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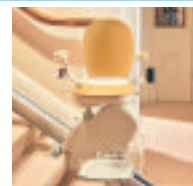
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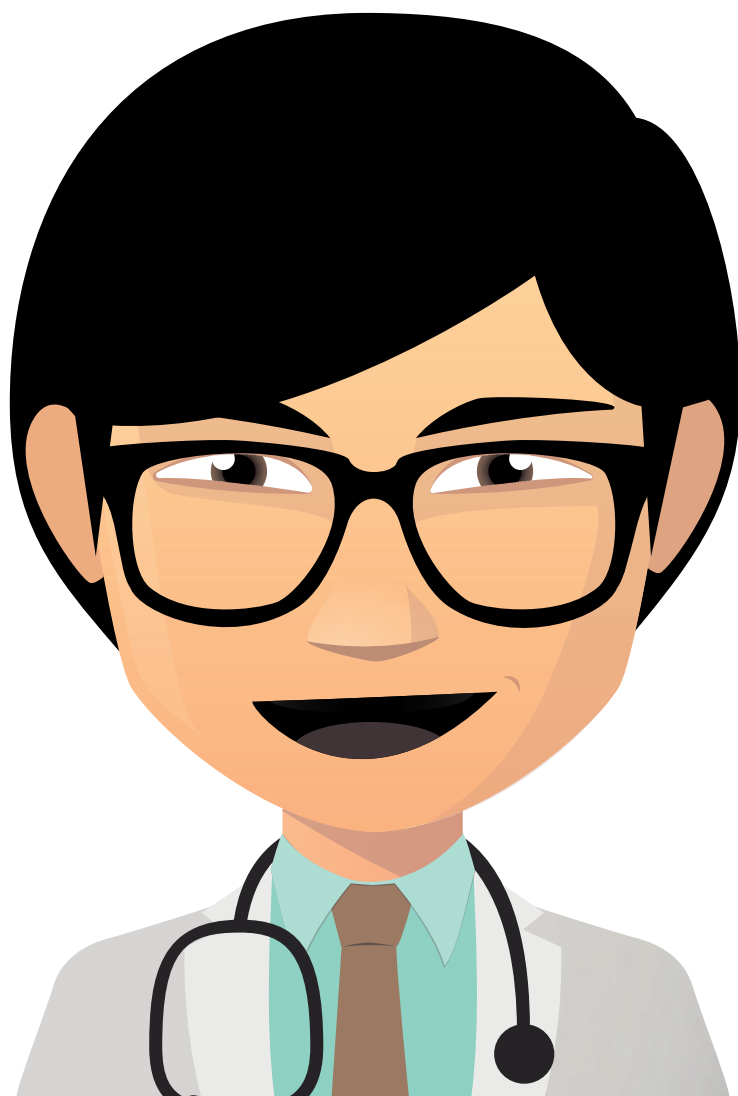
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Political posers for panel at town hall



David Dimbleby in the chair during Question Time which came from Walsall Town Hall last Thursday

THE EU referendum dominated the debate as Question Time rolled into Walsall. More than half the hour-long show chaired by David Dimbleby was centred on the upcoming Brexit vote. The first question on Thursday – posed by a young man called Daniel – was if it is racist to want to leave the EU.

UKIP deputy leader Paul Nuttall clashed with Labour's Yvette Cooper. Mr Nuttall said immigration has 'put British people at the back of the queue' while Ms Cooper decried Nigel Farage's rhetoric as being 'not dissimilar to Enoch Powell'. Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron said: 'Immigration to this country is by far much more a blessing than a curse.'

Former Channel 4 economics editor Paul Mason described Vote Leave campaigner and former Mayor of London Boris Johnson as 'debasing the rationality of the debate'.

As the programme entered its second half the discussion moved on to the NHS and its future. Audience member Kevin Wilkes asked the panel if it is 'time for the NHS to be run independently rather than like a political football?'

One angry NHS worker in the crowd said Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt should resign – but Tory Energy Secretary Amber Rudd, perhaps unsurprisingly, said: 'Naturally I disagree.'

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust board member Harjinder Kang was also in the crowd and said the NHS 'needs to be taken out of the political environment'.

Watchdog calls for services to improve

MENTAL health services across Dudley and Walsall must improve, the health watchdog has ruled following an inspection.

The Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has been rated as 'requires improvement' overall following a detailed assessment of the three hospitals it runs.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) found a review of patient safety was of a 'poor standard' and said care plans were not always 'holistic, person centred or recovery focused'.

The regulator said the safety of some staff and patients was 'compromised' as there were not alarm systems in place in all areas. The Beeches Day Hospital in Walsall did not have an operational alarm system at all at the time of inspection, it was said.

Inspectors also reported 'inconsistencies' in informal patients being able to leave wards, as is their right.

The trust employs more than 1,000 people across 29 sites and runs three main units in the two boroughs; Bloxwich Hospital, Bushey Fields Hospital in Dudley and Dorothy Pattison Hos-

By Richard Guttridge

pital in Walsall. While the trust was told services must improve overall, the CQC described day-to-day practice as caring, responsive and well-led.

Following the publication of the report, bosses at the trust vowed to improve areas where they were deemed to be not doing enough. But the trust also pointed to the many positive aspects of the report, including high morale among staff and a 'clear vision and set of values' which put patient safety as its top priority.

Acting chief executive Mark Axcell said: 'We welcome the feedback from the CQC and although we are disappointed with the final rating the report highlights many areas of good practice.'

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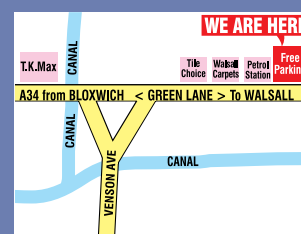
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Players serve up £3,000 towards target for club

A FUNDRAISING event for a historic Walsall sports club that needs to find £400,000 to preserve its future brought in £3,000 towards the cause.

Walsall Tennis Club, the only club of its kind in the borough, has been running for 104 years and has launched a campaign to find a new home to secure its future.

The latest fundraising event organised to help raise money towards finding a bigger and better home saw former Davis Cup representatives Luke Milligan and Danny Sapsford give lessons to up-and-comers before taking to the court for an exhibition match.

The club's vice chairman David Twist said: "We had an excellent turnout."

"It was great of Danny and Luke to agree to help, their efforts went a long way towards giving us our impressive total. For lovers of the game, to see them play was a fantastic opportunity and the coaching sessions were a hit too."

Members

Walsall Tennis Club's lease runs out in 2019 and it is concerned that if it doesn't find somewhere else to play then it will be forced to close.

The club, based in Birmingham Road, has been going since 1912 and has around 250 members.

The club's committee has spent years trying to find a long-term solution but they said now the time had come to make their fears public and formally launch a campaign to save it.

Mr Twist explained that the fundraising wasn't organised in order to find a new home, but a bigger and better one.

He said: "We are growing all of the time and if we have to move, we think our move should reflect that."

"A lot of clubs across the area and the wider Black Country have folded over the years but we are going strong. If we can raise the money we need



Ex-British Davis Cup players, left, Luke Milligan and Danny Sapsford



Some of the action which took place at Walsall Tennis Club's fundraiser

then we will ensure that our future is properly looked after."

Anyone wishing to make a donation to save the club can visit mydonate.

bt.com and search for Walsall Tennis Club. Alternatively, a link to the donation page is available on the club's own website.

Cars are seized by police in operation

MORE than 100 vehicles have been seized in the West Midlands and 39 people arrested in the first few days of a crack down on crime.

West Midlands Police have been working with officers from Romania, Lithuania and Holland as part of Operation Trivium, which targets foreign national offenders operating or taking shelter in the UK.

The arrests include a 44-year-old Polish man, who was picked up at an address in Maple Grove, Lozells, on Tuesday and a 62-year-old Czech man who was stopped on Wednesday in a vehicle on the M5. They are wanted to face fraud and burglary charges, respectively, in their home countries.

The men were detained under European Arrest warrants and will now be deported to face justice. And three Romanian men were arrested southbound on the M5 on suspicion of stealing TVs and champagne from a Co-Op store in Staffordshire.

The week-long operation sees officers able to carry out swift intelligence checks on police systems across Europe and provide police patrols on UK roads with a complete picture on any suspects they encounter – and ensure no crime suspects slip through the net.

Ch Insp Jed White from the Central Motorway Police Group, said: "We've made some notable arrests and seized a total of 124 vehicles in the West Midlands."

"Trivium is a fantastic example of partnership working with a range of agencies, including the National Crime Agency."

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Walsall Town Centre

Double honour for D-Day hero Arthur from French mayor

A SECOND World War veteran who was recently awarded a Legion d'honneur medal from the President of France, has once more been honoured by the country he helped liberate during the war.

Arthur Utey, aged 93, from Willenhall, has now been honoured by the Mayor and MP of Drancy, Jean-Christophe Lagarde.

Drancy, a suburb of Paris, is the city which Arthur and his allied comrades helped to free during the summer of 1944.

Arthur recently returned to France on VE Day, May 8, some 72 years after the D-Day Landings, and as the guest of honour at a special commemorative service, held at Drancy's Town Hall.

During his active service in France, Arthur saw fierce fighting and lost comrades and friends. He has maintained strong links with the country in which he fought and regularly visits Drancy to remember and honour those who have fallen, and share time with the French people – who treat him as 'one of their own'.

Arthur said: "I return each year to France because it is important to me. I was very proud to be invited to this special ceremony and honour the continuing links between English World War II veterans and France."

"I accept the citizens of Drancy's thanks and their kind sentiments on behalf of all my fellow veterans who were part of the D-Day Landings."

Display

"And by way of honouring our countries shared histories and connections, I was also able to carry out an important civic duty while I was there too."

"I gave Jean – Christophe Lagarde, Mayor of Drancy a special town plaque from councillor Angela Underhill, our own Mayor here in Walsall."

"He was very touched and it is now on display in the Drancy Mayoral Parlour."

Mr Utey was called up in 1942, he joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) and alongside many others was transferred to a landing craft in the early hours of 6th June 1944 and crossed the channel without any knowledge of where he was heading.

His vessel formed part of the 7,000 strong flotilla of ships and boats that landed on Gold Beach on June 6, 1944 in preparation for the historic allied D-Day Landings.

A letter sent to him by the Mayor of Drancy is a mark of just how highly World War Two veterans who helped liberate the country are regarded in France.

The letter reads: "It is with great pleasure that I have just learned that you have officially received the insig-



Arthur Utey, seen on May 8 at the commemoration in Drancy



The plaque which Arthur handed over



Arthur Utey, seen during wartime

nia of Chevalier in the National Order of the Legion of Honour military title for your conduct during the landing in France.

"As you have regularly participated in commemoration ceremonies for the Second World War, we are particularly proud and honoured that the French Republic has awarded you this honour for your participation in the fight for freedom leading to the liberation of France."

"Therefore, I invite you to participate as a guest of honour at the next commemoration ceremony for the May 8, 1945 Armistice, which will take place on Sunday May 8, 2016 at 9 am at Drancy City Hall."

"As they were the first to inform of the good news, the veterans of Drancy

will be pleased to pay a well-deserved tribute to your military service."

"It is our collective duty to express to you our profound respect and gratitude for your actions over seventy years ago. The British people 'transcended by Prime Minister Winston Churchill proved that it was possible to stop the Nazi expansion and lead fighters from the Free World to victory through the landings on the beaches of France."

"This tribute to you will then be dedicated to all those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the French people and the triumph over barbarism. Until we find ourselves together, please accept, Mr le Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur, the assurances of my highest consideration."

Commissioner says it is vital that UK remains part of EU

A WEST Midlands police chief has said it is 'vital' that the UK stays in Europe ahead of the upcoming EU Referendum.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson believes staying in the EU is essential in the fight against major crimes such as human trafficking and terrorism.

The UK will go to the polls on June 23 to decide whether to stay in Europe or leave.

Mr Jamieson said: "The EU referendum is the most important decision the people of the UK will make in 50 years. The West Midlands currently gains a lot from its strong links with EU partners, especially on the big issues such as terrorism."

The commissioner said that staying in the EU would help combat criminal gangs who are 'highly-mobile' and 'tech-savvy' and work without geographical boundaries.

Another example of benefitting from staying in the EU would be the ability to enforce a European Arrest Warrant, according to Mr Jamieson. He said: "Organised crime gangs are spreading their tentacles far and wide."

"Gone are the days when criminals would operate in one single area. Today, they are highly-mobile, tech-savvy with no geographical boundaries."

"Our enforcement needs to be equally mobile and work across national boundaries."

School joy at accolade for writing

A WALSALL school is celebrating after being named in the Young Writers top 25 schools for writing. Abu Bakr Primary School in Wednesbury Road regularly enters pupils for competitions held throughout the year.

The organisation has been working with schools, parents and young people across the world for over two decades with the aim to promote poetry and creative writing.

Work is selected for publication based on perception, imagination, expression, creativity and use of language. Head teacher Hasina Varachia said: "Development of pupils' literacy skills is taken very seriously at the school and pupils are given many opportunities both in lessons and through the range of enrichment activities on offer to share their wonderful writing skills. We have many fantastic writers and we are delighted that Young Writers have recognised our efforts and have named us in their top 25 of schools."

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Ben fights his way to very top in martial art



Ben Plant, seen after his success in the IBJJF jujitsu championship which was held in California

A YOUNG Walsall martial arts expert is now a champion on both sides of the Atlantic.

Willenhall schoolboy Ben Plant has recently returned from California after winning an American martial arts contest that is the largest competition in jujitsu worldwide.

His school, Willenhall E act Academy, is very proud of the youngster's achievements, which include: British open Champion 2015; UK National champion 2015-2016; European champion 2015; Naga (North American grappling association) 2014-2015 champion; British open nogi cham-

pion 2015; Birmingham open champion 2015.

At the tender age of 11 Ben is now ranked number one in his weight and age category.

Ben is very dedicated to his training and is regularly put through his paces at Eclipse Martial arts Academy in Bloxwich.

He is also a keen amateur boxer for Willenhall ABC.

Ben's family say they are keen for him to develop his skills and to keep competing at world level.

If any local businesses want to sponsor a sports star of the future please email Ben's father Jason at jasonplant@gmx.com



Ben seen with his medals and belts

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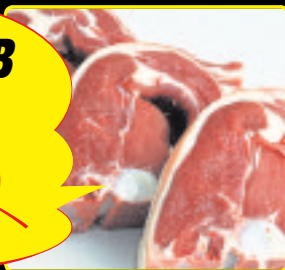
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Tyres and rubbish go up in flames

FIRE crews tackled a blaze involving tyres and rubbish in Wednesbury. The incident took place in Darlaston Road at around 3pm on Sunday. It is believed the fire was beside a derelict building.

A fire spokesman said: "The fire involved vehicle tyres and general rubbish which were on fire in a yard. We received a call just after 3pm and sent four engines from Bilston, Wednesbury, Willenhall and West Bromwich."

Only two crews remained at the scene less than an hour later.

Opening of library

THERE was a special visitor at a Walsall primary school recently, when Mayor Angela Underhill opened a new library.

Councillor Underhill shook off any superstitions for Friday 13th, and oversaw the ceremony to open the new KS2 library at Cooper and Jordan Primary School in Aldridge.

This year is Walsall's Year of Reading and to celebrate this, Cooper and Jordan have elected three reading champions from Y6 - Millie Hughes, Samuel Weal and Hannah Sharpe.

These children will be leading a variety of reading activities with the children throughout the school. The Mayor opened the library following a celebration assembly and then enjoyed a tour of school.



Mayor, Councillor Angela Underhill and her consort, husband John, with some of the pupils

Devolve spending vow by leader of coalition

THE next leader of Walsall Council has pledged to give areas their own budgets as part of a reform to shift power to the people.

Councillor Sean Coughlan says he wants to devolve some spending powers from the council house directly to wards such as Darlaston and Willenhall.

His plan would include devolved spending on roads and footpaths, so the wards could decide what needs to be repaired. It comes after councillor Coughlan announced he and his Labour group had formed a coalition with the Lib Dems to take control of Walsall council. The group has already said it will make a U-turn on Tory plans to close seven libraries and scrap the Citizens Advice Bureau grant.

Speaking on his plans for the council, Councillor Coughlan said: "It will be a continuation of the 10 months or so when we were in control between 2014 and 2015. We will be about supporting people and putting people first."

"We proved that last time by cutting senior management wages to help fund local services."

"We will continue to support local our local services. There are not any elections in Walsall for two years now so it gives us time to plan."

Under the newly formed coalition, Beechdale, Blakenall, New Invention, Rushall, South Walsall, Walsall Wood and Pleck Libraries will all remain open.

But council tax will still rise by 3.99 per cent.

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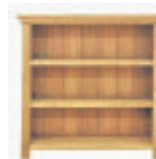
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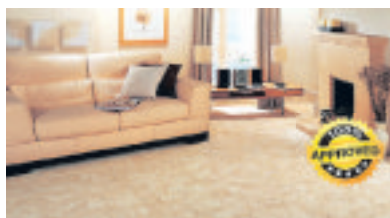
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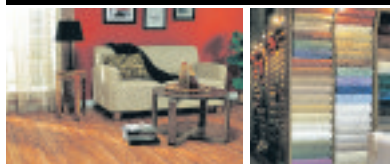
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Starting playgroup is a big milestone in your child's life and we want the experience to be exciting, enjoyable and constructive in a stimulating and safe environment.

As a parent/carer you need to know that your child is well cared for by trained supervisors. To help you and your child settle into our playgroup you will have one of the team as a key person. It is the keyperson's role to build up a special relationship with both you and your child, and to keep you informed about your child's progress.

Our playgroup is inspected regularly by Ofsted and a report is issued after every visit.

We are also visited by a representative from education walsall, early years unit.

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Since relocating to Anchor Road, Aldridge over six years ago, the company seems to be going from strength to strength. "We have both been surprised, and pleased, with how the business has progressed," company co-director Matt Pennell says. "In this current climate, people are choosing not to move but stay and improve their home, and a fireplace will add significant value to their home

Aldridge Fireplaces is a family-owned business with the emphasis on a relaxed, personal service and offers a unique service on all suites and packages. The stylish showroom features some exclusive marble and Portuguese limestone displays, solid wood and stone surrounds. Co-director Dan Pennell adds: "It's been really positive, after the company was voted the most-loved fireplace

company in the UK via the 'best of' website. We're really pleased with the award and could not have won it without all the positive feedback of our customers."

ST THOMAS'S PLAYGROUP

Starting playgroup is a big milestone in your child's life and we want the experience to be exciting, enjoyable and constructive in a stimulating and safe environment.

As a parent/carer you need to know that your child is well cared for by trained supervisors. To help you and your child settle into our playgroup you will have one of the team as a key person. It is the keyperson's role to build up a special relationship with both you and your child, and to keep you informed about your child's progress.

Our playgroup is inspected regularly by Ofsted and a report is issued after every visit. We are also visited by a representative from education walsall, early years unit.

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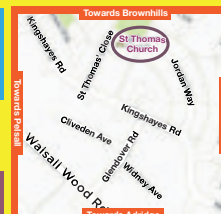
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PLACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER



Red Lion Street in the 1950s, where Geoff stayed at weekends with his grandparents, which is just around the corner from the Odeon and Beatties



The police and fire station in Red Lion Street in January, 1956, as mentioned by Geoff in his recollections



Geoff Leo is second from the left and in the woolly hat in this picture from about 1957. On the left is Sally Edes, and next to Geoff is John Hendley and then comes Tony Perry

Magical memories of an exciting childhood with an Italian flavour

ALTHOUGH small in numbers, the Italians of Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham made a significant contribution to the region's social and economic life.

Their families arrived here from the late 19th century, when the economy in southern Italy collapsed and hundreds of thousands fled poverty.

Most of them headed for the USA, but a few came to Britain.

Prominent among those Italian Wulfrunians were the Marandolas and Leos, and Geoff Leo has written in with some of his memories of growing up in Wolverhampton.

"Dad worked in the ice cream, Percy Leo and Sons, still trading, in Thomas Street. He was the eldest son, William, or Bill to his wife, and Our Willie to his sisters. Percy was really Pasquale, a first generation immigrant from Italy who started the business before the Second World War from the front room of the family house in Graiseley

MEMORY LANE

By Professor Carl Chinn

Street. "Grandad Leo died just before I was born, the year of the Queen's accession, 1952, and the year dad and his brother bought their first ice cream van.

"Mum, Nan and Granddad, and Uncle Pat, whose family lived for a short while in the front room, were all from Reydon, Suffolk; a village outside the seaside town of Southwold.

"Dad was too young to serve when war broke out in 1939, but later joined the Army. His flat feet meant he was unable to march, so he was transferred from the infantry to the engineers and he became a specialist in bomb disposal. With the threat of invasion gone the British beaches which had been mined to defend against a German assault, now had to be cleared. Dad began in Norfolk, then commanded a party of Prisoners of War to do the job further south. He met my mum, Edna, and they married in

1946. Mum was only 18 and my big brother, Alan, was born the following year in Hurn Crag Road, Reydon.

Moving to Wolverhampton, dad got him a job at the Star Aluminium, where he worked happily till his retirement. The best of my weekend friends was Tony Perry, who lived next door.

Tony was a little older than me and an only child who has written extensively about our times together in his excellent historical work 'Of The River People'. I recall Saturday mornings best and our trips to the children's matinee clubs at the ABC or Odeon picture houses.

The Clifton, or "fleapit", opposite the ABC didn't cater for us and the Gaumont by the library appeared too posh for us kids. Ninepence was the cost of an excellent morning's entertainment. There'd be a couple of Loony Toons cartoons, some Pearl & Dean commercials, then a cliff-hanger, maybe Flash Gordon or Zorro before the interval.

With the usherettes busy dealing with

queues of rowdy kids buying Kia Ora, Butterkist or a Jubbly, some of the more unscrupulous of the children would let their mates in via the emergency exits. The manager then invited children onto stage if it was their birthday, or if they had created something at school. Once I won third place for a piece of embroidery (I had no shame). Only three had gone up on stage and my prize was a torch.

During the main film the manager's voice came over the speaker, "Will the boy who won the torch please stop shining it on the screen!" The main event could be swashbuckling pirates, gun toting cowboys, whooping Indians or ray gun firing spacemen.

We would leave the cinema galloping and tapping our bottoms and emitting all sorts of sounds to indicate galloping hooves, machine guns or skidding tyres, but would instantly have to quieten down to enter Beatties. James Beattie's Department Store was the shining light of Wolverhampton, and was wonderful.



The Odeon, Wolverhampton - one of Geoff's favourite cinemas, which is still standing in Skinner Street

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Page 27



Bev's back

Home gig – Page 27



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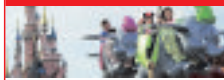


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BC Camplight
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Call 0121 331 5901

LA Guns
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Fetty Wap
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The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
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Call 0121 753 1818

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Tonight at 7.45pm, Tomorrow at 7.45pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Aurie Styla: Working... Hardly!
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Comedy In The Met
Tonight at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

THEATRE

King Lear
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

BalletBoyz: Life
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, Castle Dyke, Lichfield, West Midlands, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Crazy For You: The Viv Kelly Youth Theatre Group
Thu at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

The Sound Of Music
Tonight at 7.30pm - 10pm,
Tomorrow at 7.30pm - 10pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Mister Maker & The Shapes Live Tour
Tomorrow at 1.30pm, 4pm,
Sun at 10am, 1pm, £15.50 - £17.39
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Daughter Of The Forest
Sun at 6pm,
The Drum, Aston on Carrant, Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

Tom
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Sound Of Music
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Cats: The Musical
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Made In Dagenham: West Bromwich Operatic Society
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £16 - £22
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Tell Me On A Sunday
Thu at 7.30pm, £24.50 - £28.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Greg Foot Presents Caution: Safety Goggles Required
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Pasha Kovalev: It's All About You
Tonight at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Jackie The Musical
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Shadowlands
Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Cats lovers will be feline groovy

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's record-breaking 2015 Olivier award nominated musical *Cats* returns to Birmingham direct from its sell-out seasons at the London Palladium for one week only.

Adapted from TS Eliot's 'Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats', *Cats* returned to the West End in December last year, with a sell-out run at the London Palladium, reuniting the original creative team – director Trevor Nunn, associate director and choreographer Gillian Lynne, designer John Napier and composer Lloyd Webber.

Cats is a dazzling blend of fantasy, drama and romance about one special night of the year when all the Jellicle cats meet at the Jellicle Ball where their wise leader, Old Deuteronomy, will announce which of them will be reborn.

The show, which first opened in the West End in 1981, is full of amazing choreography and memorable songs, including the timeless *Memory*, sung by glamour cat fallen on hard times Grizabella.

Recently in the West End Grizabella was played by Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight and at Birmingham Hippodrome, from Monday to Saturday, the role is due to be played by Filipino actress and singer, Joanna Ampil, former star of *Miss Saigon*.



Victoria the White Cat in a scene from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*



Bev's back in Soulville

WOLVERHAMPTON-BORN Queen of UK Soul Beverley Knight is looking forward to a 'sweaty, up-tempo' homecoming gig in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday) as part of her 2016 UK tour, which also includes a concert in Birmingham next week.

The star, who recently turned 43, can't wait to perform at the Slade Rooms and admitted it would have been 'ridiculous' for her not to take to the stage in front of her biggest fans.

She will be entertaining with songs from her new album, *Soulville*, which she recorded in Memphis and is released on June 10, as well as her hits and songs from the West End shows she has appeared in.

The former Woodfield and Highfields pupil said: "It was going to do my head in, not doing a show in Wolverhampton. It would have been the first time ever on one of my tours that I didn't play there, which would have been ridiculous."

"It's just been finding somewhere to play with the Civic Hall being closed for refurbishments. But the Slade Rooms became available. I'm really looking forward to it."

"It's a smaller venue so it's going to be more of a sweaty club, up-tempo gig. That's what I'm planning for it. It'll be a mixture of songs from the new album and older ones, as well as a bit of what I've been up to in the West End."

She added: "It's always a good excuse to go home and see everybody as well. People are so supportive back home. I try to get back to Wolverhampton as much as I can, I've got a big family and there's normally someone's birthday, so that's a good excuse."

"It's a bit more difficult when you're in West End shows to get the time away, so I'm making the most of not being in a show at the moment."

The soul legend, who was made an MBE for her creative and charity work in 2007, is looking forward to giving Wolverhampton a sneak peek of material from her new album, her first in four years. She added: "I'm just so thrilled with it, it's a proper soul experience."

Beverley plays the Symphony Hall on Thursday, June 2.

Mothers reunion celebrates venue

BACK in the late 1960s the hippest rock venue in Brum was found above a furniture store on Erdington High Street.

Among the acts that performed, and sometimes recorded, at Mothers were Pink Floyd, The Who (performing Tommy) and a local band called Black Sabbath, who soon became known for their flamboyant frontman.

After some 400 gigs, the club closed in 1971, and 45 years on Mothers veterans the Steve Gibbons Band, Terry Reid, Edgar Broughton and Del Bromham from Stray are celebrating the venue at the Robin 2 in Bilston on Saturday night.

Tickets are £21.50 (£19.50 advance).

Shadowlands play at Birmingham Rep

THE critically-acclaimed production of William Nicholson's moving play, *Shadowlands*, comes to Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday (June 4).

It examines the private life of celebrated author CS Lewis, author of the *Narnia* stories, and his affair with feisty American poet, Joy Davidman.

The cast of *Shadowlands* is led by Stephen Boxer (Humans, *The Iron Lady*, *Doctors*) as CS Lewis, Denis Lill (*The Royal, Only Fools And Horses*) as Major WH Lewis and Amanda Ryan (*Shameless*) as Joy Davidman. Tickets cost from £13.50 to £35, call 0121 236 4455.

Eighth stage for Slam Dunk Festival

ROCK festival Slam Dunk has added an eighth stage for its tenth anniversary, being held in the Genting Arena at Birmingham NEC on Sunday.

The extra stage will highlight solo and acoustic acts and will be headlined by Bryce Avary of The Rocket Summer.

The festival, which has moved from Wolverhampton to Brum due to the refurbishment of the Civic Hall, will feature more than 45 acts – including from Las Vegas headliners Panic! at the Disco, 2 Tone legends The Beat, Of Mice & Men, New Found Glory, The Story So Far, Qemists, Zebrahead, Every Time I Die, and Mallory Knox.

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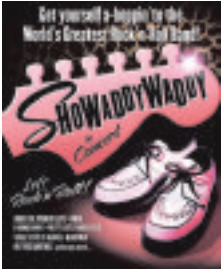
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CHOICE



Luke Pasqualino

The Musketeers

(BBC1, 9.30pm)

New series. In war-torn France, the battle-scarred swordsmen reunite to rescue orphans from brutal mercenary Lucien Grimaud. Meanwhile, a sinister new battle awaits in the form of corrupt governor Feron. Matthew McNulty and Rupert Everett join the cast, with Luke Pasqualino, Tom Burke, Howard Charles and Santiago Cabrera starring as d'Artagnan, Athos, Porthos and Aramis. Based on the characters created by Alexandre Dumas.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.30** Gymnastics: Men's European Championships. Live coverage of the men's team competition. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Can't Touch This. Obstacle course game show, presented by Zoe Ball and Ashley Banjo. **5.50** BBC News.

6.00 Regional Programme.

6.10 **Pointless Celebrities.** A "law and order" special of the quiz, with Helen Fraser, Victoria Alcock, Roberta Taylor, Chris Ellison, Arthur Bostrom, Mina Anwar, Dominic Littlewood and Matt Allwright. Last in the series.

7.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show.

The comedian hosts the final evening of entertainment and introduces music by All Saints, while Alex Jones hands over her mobile phone in Celebrity Send To All. Last in the series.

7.50 **The National Lottery: In It to Win It.** Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws with a performance by Samantha Barks.

8.40 **Casualty.** Big Mac struggles to hide the toll his addiction is taking and steals some painkillers, while Robyn is determined to bring David out of his shell.

9.30 **The Musketeers.** New series. The battle-scarred swordsmen reunite to rescue orphans from a brutal mercenary. Matthew McNulty and Rupert Everett join the cast.

10.30 **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 **Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle.** A final selection from the career of the comedian, actor, writer and director, featuring Peter appearing with Catherine Tate's Nan as well as his observations on family weddings and more of Max and Paddy's misadventures. Last in the series. (R)

11.20 **Live at the Apollo.** Greg Davies hosts another session of stand-up at Hammersmith Apollo in west London, warming up the audience for Hal Cruttenden and Simon Evans. (R)

12.05 **Film:** The Tuxedo. (2002) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.30** **Film:** Death of a Scoundrel. (1956) **9.25** **Film:** The Glass Bottom Boat. (1966) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00** **Film:** Father of the Bride. (1950) Comedy, starring Spencer Tracy and Elizabeth Taylor. **2.30** Flog It! (R) **3.20** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.20** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **5.20** This Week's World.

6.00 **Golf: PGA Highlights.** Action from the BMW PGA Championship, the European Tour event taking place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey. South Korea's An Byeong-hun triumphed here in 2015, with his overall score of 21-under-par ensuring he finished five strokes clear of his nearest competitors.

7.00 **Nick Baker's Wild West.** The naturalist explores the wildlife-rich wetlands of south-west England, including two stunning Somerset reserves. Last in the series. Postponed from May 20.

7.30 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016.** Monty Don and Joe Swift present a look back at the highlights of the past week at the horticultural showcase.

8.30 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and the platoon are asked to provide a guard of honour for a royal train carrying George VI that is passing through Walmington-on-Sea, but another locomotive confounds their plans. Classic comedy first broadcast in 1973, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and Clive Dunn. (R)

9.00 **The Secret of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.** Conductor John Eliot Gardiner looks at the story behind the famous piece of music, the opening notes of which are among the most recognisable in history. Gardiner investigates what the German composer was trying to express when he wrote the piece, and looks at the exciting and dangerous times that shaped Beethoven both personally and creatively.

10.30 Artsnight. (R)

11.00 **Film:** The Prestige. (2006) Two Victorian magicians become bitter rivals as one becomes obsessed with the secret to the other's greatest illusion. Mystery thriller, starring Hugh Jackman.

1.00 **Film:** The Disappearance of Alice Creed. (2009) **2.35** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.05** ITV News; Weather. **12.10** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** **Film:** Murder on the Orient Express. (1974) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Albert Finney. **3.50** **Film:** Kindergarten Cop. (1990) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.25

Bang on the Money. Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odoom host the game show in which two teams of friends must battle it out to hit a specific target number "bang on" in a series of physical and mental challenges. At the end of the contest, the most successful group could win up to £40,000. This week's teams are the Suits in the City from London and Team Samanda from the Wirral.

7.30 **Britain's Got Talent: Live Final.** After weeks of tough auditions and five fiercely competitive semi-finals, the national talent search comes to a close as the remaining acts perform one last time. The hopefuls all have one simple aim – to win a coveted slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance and get their hands on the £250,000 cash prize. All they have to do is impress the voting public, as the opinions of judges Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon count for nothing – who wins is entirely down to the viewers at home. Plus, to celebrate 10 series of the show, tonight also sees a special "best of" performance orchestrated by Diversity's Ashley Banjo. Presented by Ant and Dec. Last in the series.

10.00 **Let's Do It: A Tribute to Victoria Wood.** Celebration of the late comedian's work. (R)

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 **UEFA Champions League Final Highlights.** Real Madrid v Atletico Madrid.

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Cycling: Velothon Wales. **7.05** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park and Chester. **4.15** A Place in the Sun. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

7.30 **Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber.** The mechanic joins a select crew of engineers working to prepare the last Vulcan bomber that is capable of flight for a farewell tour of the UK. The programme features contributions from former crew members, who recall its service in conflicts from the 1950s to the Falklands, as well as serving as Britain's nuclear deterrent. (R)

9.00 **Film: Red 2.** (2013) Former CIA agent Frank Moskow reunites his squad of retired operatives for a vital mission. A devastatingly powerful new weapon has been stolen, and it falls to Frank's team to retrieve it – which means facing lethal assassins, terrorists and corrupt government officials out to steal the device. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren and John Malkovich.

11.10

Film: End of Days.

(1999) A former police officer protects an innocent woman from the Devil, who plans to bring about Armageddon. Supernatural thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Gabriel Byrne.

1.30 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Scott organises a surprise for John Paul at the Folly, while Sienna feels under pressure. Elsewhere, Darren bets on how long Trevor and Grace's marriage will last. (R) **3.35** **Posh Pawnbrokers.** Dan takes his sister to test drive a monster truck. Wendy comes across a handbag that could be very valuable, and Larry and Neil examine some works of art bought in a pub. (R) **4.30** **Win It Cook It.** Simon Rimmer and guest judge Rachel Allen challenge the competitors to make a meal from cocktail sausages, ketchup and bananas. **4.55** **Fifteen to One.** Sandi Toksvig hosts the general knowledge quiz, in which 15 contestants test themselves against their rivals. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** High Court enforcement agents Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner are in Birmingham on a potentially dangerous, full-scale eviction of a large traveller community. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the second day of the second Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground. Presented by Mark Nicholas, who also communicates alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott, and Simon Hughes.

8.00 **NCIS: Los Angeles.** A man who stole a car and ran down and killed one of his pursuers before escaping is identified as Walton Flynn, an ex-marine now working for a private security firm in Iraq. Sam and Callen learn that the businessman he had been hired to protect had been murdered and that the people chasing him were hired by his employers to dish out their own form of justice. Crime drama, starring Chris O'Donnell and LL Cool J. (R)

9.00 **NCIS: DiNozzo investigates a murder at the military academy he once attended, after a murdered marine and alumni of the school is found clutching a photo of a current student. Meanwhile, Bishop and her husband invite the team out for a special dinner. Starring Mark Harmon.**

10.00 **The Championship Final: Football League Tonight.** Sheffield Wednesday v Hull City. Kelly Cates and George Riley present action from the Championship play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

10.45 **The 80s: The Best of Bad TV.** A look back at memorable TV highlights from the 1980s, focusing on the best and worst that the decade had to offer. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Secrets of the Valley of the Kings. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Venice **8.00** Hidden Killers of the Post-War Home **9.00** The Disappearance **10.40** Mumford & Sons at Radio 1's Big Weekend **11.40** Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **1.10** Tales from the Tour Bus: Rock 'n' Roll on the Road **2.10** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.25** Sounds of the Eighties **3.50** Close

ITV2

11.20 The Cube **12.25** **Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30** **Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **2.20** Scorpion **3.20** **Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25** **Film:** Uncle Buck (1989) **5.10** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** **Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.15** **Film:** Hulk (2003) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** **Film:** Hulk (2003) **10.00** Britain's Got More Talent **11.00** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Teleshopping **5.30** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.35 The Return of Sherlock Holmes **2.55** Foyle's War **4.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Trial & Retribution **1.05** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

9.00 Cycling: Tour Series Highlights **10.00** Premiership Rugby Union **11.00** **Film:** The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** **Film:** The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) **1.25** Hell on Wheels **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** How I Met Your Mother **1.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** **Film:** Maled in Manhattan (2002) **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Battle: Los Angeles (2011) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** The 2016 Billboard Music Awards **3.20** Gogglebox **4.10** **Film:** Tube **4.35** Revenge

Film4

11.00 Marmaduke (2010) **1.00** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **2.45** Tooth Fairy (2010) **4.50** Sister Act (1992) **6.50** The Golden Compass (2007) **9.00** The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (2013) A teenager discovers she is part of a race of magical beings tasked with defending the world from demons. Fantasy adventure, with Lily Collins. **11.35** Wanted (2008) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy and Angelina Jolie. **1.45** Chronicle (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Dane DeHaan. **3.30** Close

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CHOICE



Top Gear (BBC2, 8pm)
New series. The motoring show returns with new hosts Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc, featuring test drives, spectacular stunts and reports on the latest models. Joining the new presenters are commentator Eddie Jordan, world record-breaking German racing driver Sabine Schmitz, renowned motoring journalist Chris Harris, car reviewer and TV presenter Rory Reid, and of course, the Stig. Things get under way as Chris takes the Dodge Viper ACR to the home of Top Gun in Nevada to battle it out against Sabine, who is behind the wheel of a Chevrolet Corvette Z06. Matt LeBlanc tackles the wilds of Morocco in the Ariel Nomad, before returning to British soil to take on Evans in a gruelling UK v USA challenge.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Lose Weight for Love. (R) **4.00** Nature's Epic Journeys. (R) **5.00** Points of View. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News.
6.50 **Regional Programme.**
7.00 **Countryfile.** John Craven races a hill-runner to the summit of Snowdon, and meets volunteers trying to save the area's osprey. Anita Rani puts on her wetsuit for a spot of in-land surfing, and Joe Crowley meets an artist whose work has dominated the Snowdonia landscape. Plus, Tom Heap meets campaigners from both sides of the EU Referendum debate, asking David Cameron and Boris Johnson why "rural Britain" should vote with the week ahead.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team return to Tredegar House near Newport. Among the finds are a locket that was a gift from Queen Victoria, a device used for creating tattoos, a classic car, a cigar cutter commemorating the opening of the Newport transporter bridge, 19th-century advertisements for public executions, a versatile tiara and a miniature font with a sad history. (R)
9.00 **Wallander.** The detective investigates when a body is found half-buried in a swamp. Visiting her home, Wallander discovers signs of an intruder and that the dead woman's daughter is missing. The return of a lost love distracts him from the case at hand, as he encounters a gang of bikers that have been causing trouble in the area and begins to suspect he is being watched.
10.30 BBC News.
10.50 **Regional Programme.**
11.00 **Room 101 - Extra Storage.** Extended edition, with Des O'Connor, Adrian Chiles and Jameela Jamil discussing their pet hates. Last in the series. (R)
11.40 **Film: Grosse Pointe Blank.** (1997) Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack.
1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.35** This Farming Life. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Haiky Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **12.30** Rowing World Cup. **2.30** Athletics: Diamond League. (R) **3.30** Gymnastics: Men's European Championships.
6.00 **Golf: PGA Highlights.** Hazel Irvine presents action from the final round of the BMW PGA Championship, the European Tour event taking place on the West Course at the Wentworth Club in Surrey.
7.00 **Rugby Union.** England v Wales. Highlights of the friendly encounter at Twickenham, where the sides warmed up for their respective summer tours of Australia and New Zealand.
8.00 **Top Gear.** New series. The motoring show returns with new hosts Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc, with guest appearances by Jesse Eisenberg and Gordon Ramsay.
9.00 **Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day.** Dan Snow marks the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Jutland, which ended in an inconclusive result, but may have been crucial to the eventual outcome of the First World War.
10.05 **XL.** Stephen Fry invites David Mitchell, Sue Perkins and Sami Shah to join regular panellist Alan Davies as he meanders about some places that start with the letter M. (R)
10.35 **Stupid Man. Smart Phone.** Russell Kane and singer-songwriter Conor Maynard try to survive the dense, unforgiving Costa Rican jungle, using only their smartphones as survival aids.
11.25 **Flat TV.** New series. Comedy following the exploits of two TV-obsessed slackers, beginning as the duo anxiously await the delivery of a parcel. Starring Tom Rosenthal and Naz Osmanoglu.
11.45 **Later - with Joels Holland.** Extended edition, featuring performances by The Last Shadow Puppets, Bonnie Raitt, Ballake Sissoko and Vincent Segal, Nao, Dinosaur Jr and Zucchero. (R)
12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.45** Holby City. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.55** ITV News: Weather. **12.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **2.05** Britain's Got Talent: Live Final. (R) **4.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.40** **ITV News:** Weather.
7.00 **Where Are They Now? The Reunions.** Stars of TV, films and the music industry reassemble the acts that helped them find fame, including the Bay City Rollers, Musical Youth, East 17 and cast of the Oxo advertisements.
8.00 **The British Soap Awards 2016.** The stars of some of the nation's favourite shows gather at London's Hackney Empire Theatre to celebrate some of soap-land's most dynamic plotlines of the past year. The casts of Coronation Street, Doctors, EastEnders, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks all assemble to discover who will be going home with one of the 15 coveted awards, as voted for by members of the viewing public. Over the past 12 months, Britain's soaps have dealt with everything from Stacey's post-partum psychosis in EastEnders to bad-boy Callum's murder in a live episode of Coronation Street, the unmasking of Hollyoaks' notorious 'Gloved Hand Killer', and yet another air crash in Emmerdale. Philip Schofield presides as a parade of famous faces hand out the trophies, which include gongs for the Best Actor and Actress, Villain of the Year, Best Newcomer, Scene of the Year and Best On Screen Partnership.
10.00 **ITV News:** Weather. **10.20** **Perspectives: The Great American Love Song with Nicky Campbell.** The broadcaster reveals his passion for the music of 1920s and 1930s New York, choosing six timeless love songs from the era. (R)
11.20 **Premiership Rugby Union.** **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** **British Superbike Championship Highlights.** **4.40** **ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

7.05 Monaco Historic Grand Prix 2016. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets. (2008) Drama, starring Brana Evigan. **2.25** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **3.25** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **5.45** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Highlights.
8.00 **Yeti: Man, Myth or Beast?** Scientist Mark Evans enlists the aid of an international team of geneticists as he sets out to determine, once and for all, whether there is a rational explanation for the legendary Tibetan yeti. Mark's investigation centres on two competing theories, the first being that the "Abominable Snowman" is in fact a species of "human" marginalised by the rise of homo sapiens, the other stating that the yeti is some form of previously undiscovered bear. Renowned mountaineer Reinhold Messner - who claims to have encountered a yeti - weighs in on the subject, subscribing to the latter theory, while Professor Rasmus Nielsen shares his research into the Denisovans, a long-lost species of human with DNA connections to modern Tibetans, which may have inspired Himalayan folk tales of "wild men" who would later become known as "yetis".
9.00 **Channel 4's Comedy Gala 2016.** So You Think You're Funny 2012 winner Aisling Bea. The Last Leg's Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker, former Harry Potter actor Warwick Davis and Channel 4's very own "Chatty Man" Alan Carr are among the comedy stars taking part in the seventh annual Comedy Gala at London's O2 arena. Also taking to the stage this year are Charlie Baker, Kevin Bridges, Nathan Chan, Hal Cruttenden, Rob Beckett, Joel Dommett, Kerry Godliman, Lee Nelson, Russell Kane, Sean, Shappi Khorsandi, Seann Walsh, Tom Allen and Zoe Lyons, along with musician Jake Bugg. As ever, all profits from ticket and DVD sales of Gala will go to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.
11.30 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts. (R)
12.30 **Film:** The Two Faces of January. (2014) **2.05** Come One With Me.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.10** Pets. **7.15** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.25** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.10** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** Lazy Town. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. (R) **10.55** Now That's Funny! (R) **11.55** Film: Holy Man. (1998) **2.05** Film: Bride Wars. (2009) **3.50** Film: The Princess Diaries. (2001)
6.00 **Kitten's Got Talent.** Internet clips of cats performing physical feats or demonstrating lightning reactions, sporting and athletic skills, super intelligence or bravery. (R)
6.55 **5 News** Weekend.
7.00 **Cricket** on 5. England v Sri Lanka. Highlights from the third day of the second Test in a three-match series, which takes place at Emirates Durham International Cricket Ground.
8.00 **Egypt: Secrets of the Sphinx.** Experts in various fields share their theories on the Great Sphinx of Giza, while CGI is used to recreate what the giant statue would have looked like when it was originally built.
9.00 **Film: Hercules.** (2014) Premiere. The son of a Greek god is sold into slavery by his evil stepfather, but escapes to reclaim his rightful kingdom. Mythological adventure, with Kellan Lutz and Gaia Weiss. Includes 5 News at 10pm.
11.00 **League One Final: Football League Tonight.** Walsall or Barnsley v Millwall or Bradford City. George Riley and Kelly Cates present action from the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium.
11.45 **Film: Crank: High Voltage.** (2009) A hitman pursues a mobster who took his heart and replaced it with a machine that requires constant charging up. Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham and Amy Smart.
1.25 SuperCasino. **3.10** The KKK: Behind The Mask. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Playing Beethoven's Fifth **7.45** Mozart Uncovered **8.00** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **9.00** Coldplay Live at Radio 1's Big Weekend **10.00** Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups **11.00** Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons Side by Side: The Interview **11.30** The Last Journey of the Magna Carta King **12.30** World War Two: 1945 & the Wheelchair President **2.00** Going Going Gone: Nick Broomfield's Disappearing Britain **3.00** Ballrooms and Ballerinas: Dance at the BBC **4.00** Close
ITV2
1.35 The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack **1.45** Film: Beethoven (1992) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55** Film: Beethoven (1992) **3.35** Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **4.35** FYI Daily **4.40** Film: The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **5.20** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25** Film: Despicable Me (2010) **7.10** Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15** Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.30** Love Island: We Know What You Did Last Summer **10.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** SafeWord **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV3
12.20 Foyle's War **2.20** Film: Columbo: Swan Song (1974) **4.30** Film: Doc Hollywood (1991) **5.40** FYI Daily **6.45** Film: Doc Hollywood (1991) **6.30** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Lewis **10.05** Film: Good Will Hunting (1997) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** Film: Good Will Hunting (1997) **12.45** Secret Smile **2.05** Blue Murder **2.55** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.05** Judge Judy
ITV4
10.05 Film: Police Academy (1984) **10.55** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **1.15** Minder **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
2.00 The Goldbergs **3.30** Film: Rio (2011) **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Gogglebox **2.15** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** New Girl **3.35** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 The Lost World (1960) **1.30** Parental Guidance (1992) **3.05** Catch That Kid (2004) **4.50** Big (1988) **6.55** Field of Dreams (1989) **9.00** RoboCop (2014) **11.20** Law Abiding Citizen (2009) **1.40** Damsels in Distress (2011)



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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Class of 92, ITV, 10.15pm

Documentary telling the story of six of Manchester United's most successful players - David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Phil and Gary Neville. The film follows their rise from playing for the club's youth team to forming part of a squad that would win the European Cup. (2013)

TUESDAY

Columbo: Any Old Port in a Storm, ITV, 11.10pm

A vineyard owner's financial security is jeopardised when his playboy younger brother threatens to sell the family winery. He resorts to killing his sibling and rigging the death scene to look like a scuba-diving accident. However, the crumpled cop sees through the ruse and in the process reveals he is something of a wine buff himself. Detective drama, with Peter Falk, Donald Pleasence and Julie Harris. (1973)



Fright Night, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

WEDNESDAY

Stranger in the House, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Premiere. A young woman suspects her scheming step-mother of murdering her father to get her hands on her inheritance. Thriller, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Jordana Lary. (2016)

THURSDAY

Le Week-End, Channel 4, 9pm

A couple decide to celebrate their 30th anniversary in Paris, where they spent their honeymoon, in the hope that returning to the site of happier times will revive the failing relationship. The holiday leads to an encounter with a prosperous old friend, who invites them to a dinner party that changes their outlook on life. Romantic comedy drama, starring Jim Broadbent, Lindsay Duncan and Jeff Goldblum. (2013)

FRIDAY

Fright Night, BBC1, 11.55pm

A teenager realises his new neighbour is a vampire, but cannot convince anyone of the danger they are in. He turns to a foul-mouthed magician with a horror-themed Las Vegas show to help him slay the bloodsucker before he murders the entire neighbourhood. Comedy horror remake, with Anton Yelchin and Colin Farrell. (2011)

Looking at the benefits of the Welfare system

Are single mothers receiving benefits living the life of Riley? Or is it more a case of living on the breadline?

Single mum-of-two Myleene Klass is turning investigator for this new documentary in which she hopes to find out what parents on benefits are spending their cash on.

Myleene is never far from the public eye as a TV presenter and performer, but sees being one of Britain's two million single parents as her most important job.

However, she struggles with a stigma she feels is attached to the single-mother status and looks to uncover why single mums feel like they get such a hard time.

"When I read the headlines about single mums on benefits, living the high life, refusing to work, it makes me, like everyone else, furious.

"These stories do nothing to help the image of single parents everywhere, leaving [us] all feeling tarred with the same brush.

"So I want to find out the truth behind the headlines."

Myleene starts her journey by speaking to 'Welfare Queen' Marie Buchan, an unemployed single mother of eight children who caused outrage when she publicly declared her £26,000 benefits weren't enough.

Marie says getting the benefits is a simple process: "You obviously have a baby, you send off the application form, birth certificate, they assess it and then you've got your money in your account. It is very easy."

Next it's onto Margate, where Myleene meets teen mum Becky.

She says: "I got quite a lot of negative comments from everyone. They just called me dirty, disgusting.

"There was one incident where someone actually followed me home and were shouting and swearing at me, so I was running with the buggy because I don't really want to get beaten up with my son."

Myleene also heads to North Wales to stay with 43-year-old single mother Rhiannon, who relies on state benefits after being made redundant and losing the family home shortly after her marriage broke down.

She now looks after her trio of children and her grandmother in a rented house.

"It's a bridge for now," she says. "You almost feel like it's a failure. You get a little bit embarrassed about it."

Myleene takes Rhiannon to meet a group of single mothers called Single With Kids in the Delamere Forest.

Rhiannon describes her experiences with the group as, "Like an epiphany." She says: "I've gone through that walk and come back and it's like, 'Yeah we're single mums, and look what we do.'"

There are 200,000 single dads raising their kids in Britain, and many of them also on rely on benefits.

So with that in mind, Myleene visits Dad's House, a charity where fathers get the chance to talk to other single dads.

One father, Luke, tells her: "I hated myself for having to go to the job centre. People ask you, 'How do you get your money?' When I say income support, 'Oh, dose dossier scum.' I don't want to claim but I have no choice."



Myleene Klass: Single Mum on Benefits, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

A Midsummer Night's Dream

BBC1, 8.30pm

The Hollow Crown: The War of the Roses gave us a history lesson (of sorts), but now the BBC is turning its attention to Shakespeare's most magical comedy, A Midsummer Night's Dream. It's been adapted by former Doctor Who showrunner Russell T Davies, but while he's put his own stamp on it – and gathered an all-star cast including Matt Lucas, Maxine Peake and Bernard Cribbins – he assures us that he's sticking to the Bard's words. For those unfamiliar with the story, it opens in Athens, where dictator Theseus is planning to wed Hippolyta, a prisoner of war, and young Hermia is determined to escape a marriage to man she doesn't love. Meanwhile, in the woods, trouble is brewing between the King and Queen of the fairies, while in the town, the leading man of a squabbling amateur theatre group is about to undergo a magical transformation.

TUESDAY

World War One Remembered: The Battle of Jutland

BBC2, 7pm

David Dimbleby looks back on the day's events held to commemorate the Battle of Jutland, one of greatest sea battles in naval history. For one day in

May 1916 the outcome of the First World War hung in the balance as 250 of Britain and Germany's most powerful warships fought head to head in the North Sea. Today, 100 years on, The Duke of Edinburgh, together with the German President, led the tributes to those who fought and remember the one in 10 sailors who lost their lives.

WEDNESDAY

Loose Weight for Love

BBC1, 8pm

Tanya Byron helps Bob and Jane, whose overeating and excessive drinking is making them so unhappy that it is threatening to drive them apart. Over the past few years, the couple have piled on the pounds through eating vast meals and drinking up to 25 bottles of wine a week, and Bob admits that he no longer finds his partner attractive. Tanya and her team separate the pair for 10 weeks, arranging for Jane to resolve a long-standing issue with her adult daughter, and introducing former semi-professional footballer Bob to the fun of exercise.

Versailles

BBC2, 9.30pm

It's not even aired in Britain yet, but this lavish period drama – which has previously been shown in France – is already whipping up controversy due to its sex scenes, with one MP questioning whether it's the sort of thing the BBC ought to be showing. Now, UK viewers have the chance to see what all the fuss is about. Mixing historical and fictional characters, the drama begins in the France of 1667, where the young King Louis XIV (George Blagden) is determined to stamp his authority on court and country, but is all too aware of the legacy of 'The Fronde', a series of civil wars which saw the nobility rebel against the crown. His plan to bring the rich to heel involves turning his father's hunting lodge into Europe's most magnificent chateau.



A Midsummer Night's Dream, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

THURSDAY

Live International Football

ITV, 7.30pm
England v

Portugal (Kick-off 7.45pm). Mark Pougatch presents all the action from both teams' final friendly before Euro 2016, which comes from Wembley Stadium. Roy Hodgson will be keen to cast his eye over his side in a match environment one more time before selecting his team to face Russia a week on Saturday, and they are likely to face a difficult encounter against the Portuguese. Fernando Santos' men have been handed what looks like one of the easier groups in France, and will be hopeful that they can go far, especially if talisman Cristiano Ronaldo is at his brilliant best. With analysis from Ian Wright and Lee Dixon.

FRIDAY

Fraud – How They Steal Your ID

ITV, 9pm

Criminals are increasingly procuring bank and credit card details from online customers, which are then freely traded on the so-called 'dark web'. However, as this programme reveals, to succeed in doing this they must first get personal with their targets using a combination of data hacks, spam e-mail and malware – often coupled by posing as inquisitive bank staff via telephone calls. With reference to true-life occurrences, this programme outlines the various techniques used to swindle account holders of their cash. Narrated by Shaun Dooley.

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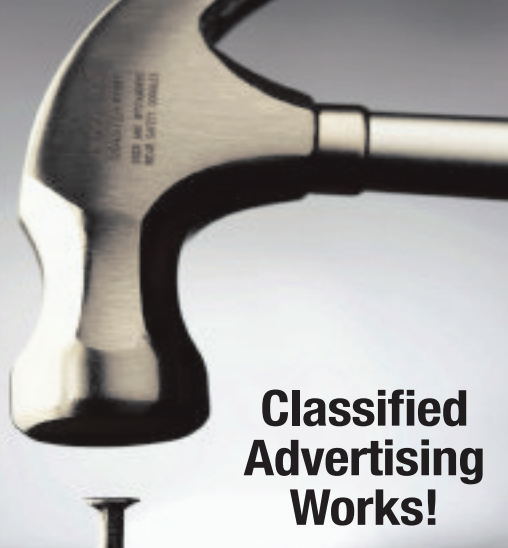
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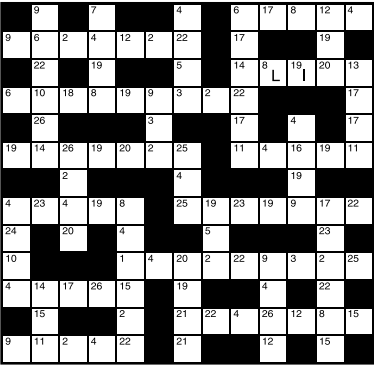
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
F W P Z L R E B J C G Y D
I X H O Q T A S N K V M U

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

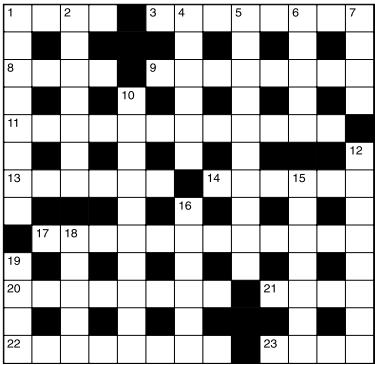
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Point to a tree from the window (4)
- 3. The parson's address (8)
- 8. Sound as a bell (4)
- 9. Encouraging applause? (8)
- 11. Bet the flag will, sometimes (4,1,7)
- 13. Strange desire to settle somewhere (6)
- 14. I am in a rage, it appears (6)
- 17. Educated postman? (3,2,7)
- 20. Hip seams split by stress (8)
- 21. Still not excited (4)
- 22. Gives some support for regular girlfriends (8)
- 23. Stupefy in a most unusual fashion (4)

Down

- 1. His paper might be valuable (8)
- 2. Has no bite? (7)
- 4. Expire, though once healthy (6)
- 5. Choose to speak to the voters (10)
- 6. The very best from France (5)
- 7. Excavates lodgings (4)
- 10. This fight will be very close (4-2-4)
- 12. Yet he may be a queen! (8)
- 15. A nice tax might produce it, but it wouldn't be right (7)
- 16. Fish for position, we hear (6)
- 18. It brought to notice the gravity of the world situation (5)
- 19. They may be sweet to eat, or not! (4)



Quick Clues:

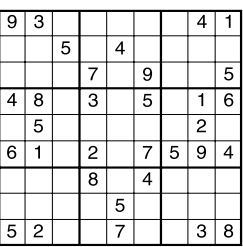
Across

- 1. Applaud (4)
- 3. Trustworthy (8)
- 8. Observe (4)
- 9. Mark in degrees (8)
- 11. White-hot (12)
- 13. Reputation (6)
- 14. Lethargy (6)
- 17. Loving (12)
- 20. Expulsion (8)
- 21. Lake (4)
- 22. Guardianship (8)
- 23. Active (4)

Down

- 1. Persuade (8)
- 2. Commodity (7)
- 4. Merited (6)
- 5. Token (10)
- 6. Muscular strength (5)
- 7. Level (4)
- 10. Accompanying (10)
- 12. Verdure (4)
- 19. Transp (7)
- 16. Powerful (6)
- 22. Rapid; 23 Asiatic; 24 Secret agent (5)
- 18. Mock-assault (5)
- 19. Exploit (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Greasepaint; 9 Tirades; 10 Still; 11 Nylon; 12 Russian; 13 Answer; 15 Brogue; 18 Elector; 20 Least; 22 Septa; 23 Aspiration; 24 Battered. Down: 2 Rural; 3 Andante; 4 Ensure; 5 Asses; 6 Nailing; 7 Stand at ease; 8 Clandestine; 14 Steeple; 16 Relapse; 17 Truant; 19 Transp; 21 Agree. QUICK - Across: 1 Application; 9 Abandon; 10 Nice; 11 Ennui; 12 Elegant; 13 Enrage; 15 Scheme; 18 Sultana; 20 Lilac; 22 Rapid; 23 Asiatic; 24 Secret agent. Down: 2 Plain; 3 Lodging; 4 Cancel; 5 Tense; 6 Overawe; 7 Tape measure; 8 Weathercock; 14 Relapse; 16 Calling; 17 Vacant; 19 Adder; 21 Latent.

Thinking space



Quiz

- 1. Of which country is Lusaka the capital?
- 2. Who wrote the opera Sir John In Love in 1929?
- 3. What is the highest mountain in the Cairngorms?
- 4. What type of creature is the mudskipper?
- 5. By what name was Robert MacGregor better known?
- 6. Which sport's principal forms are strokeplay and matchplay?
- 7. Who is the patron saint of Scotland?
- 8. Which disease is also called Hansen's disease?
- 9. What is a saluki?
- 10. Which country's all-woman team won the three-day event at the 1994 World Equestrian Games?

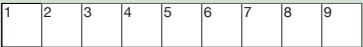
Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Lady Helen Taylor; 2 Iraq; 3 Burmese; 4 Yin and Yang; 5 Rio Grande; 6 Stendhal; 7 Mo Mowlam; 8 E Nesbit; 9 Anglican; 10 Stentor.
- Niner: ADVERSITY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 14628 gives a modern vessel,
- 371129 gives an old vessel,
- 173556 gives a stretch of water.



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Garlic mushrooms on ciabatta bread



Tomato and basil linguine with veg



A good tradition – The Horns Inn, Rugeley



Rustic charm – the olde worlde interior

Trying new pubs can be risky but at Horns you'll be Inn for a real treat

EXPLORING new pubs is always risky but our minds were instantly put at ease on entering The Horns Inn.

But before going inside, we had a quick peek outside. If you're going for a day out at Cannock Chase or simply venturing a little further afield for some good nosh, this is the pub to wind up at.

Based on the edge of Rugeley, in Slitting Mill and a five-minute walk from The Chase, the pub sits next to a fishing pond and has a handy bus stop for those who don't drive and ample parking for those who do. And so we entered. Refurbished back in 2014, everything still looks fresh and clean – no sticky floors or 'old pub' smell in this place.

The interior has a trendy, yet traditional feel. The mismatched chairs, wooden tables,

By Louise Rouvray

exposed brick walls, stone fireplace and firewood make for a rustic and relaxed feel. It may sound olde-worlde, but the stone-coloured walls, new wooden flooring and modern lighting gives the place a refreshing 21st century air.

Within five minutes of us being seated and we had already had a good look at the menu. I went for the pan fried button mushrooms in a garlic and herb sauce served with ciabatta to start, while my fiancé opted for the fresh homemade soup of the day – butternut squash.

For the mains, which arrived promptly, I'd gone for freshly prepared linguine with tomato and basil sauce, while my fiancé had chosen the 21-day aged 10oz sirloin steak, cooked medium rare (as requested) and served with grilled tomato, mushroom,

peas and homemade chips. The chips here are a die for – literally like going to a soft, potato heaven with well-seasoned skinned pearly gates.

Being a vegetarian, unfortunately I couldn't taste test his mains, but he assured me the steak was tender and not too greasy.

Positive

He sliced through it easily enough, with about the right amount of chewiness/toughness and made contented grunting noises throughout – all in all, a very positive response.

My linguine was perfectly cooked – the pasta breaking easily in my mouth, but retaining a firm texture. The tomato sauce took me back to our recent trip to Italy, sipping wine in the sun and consuming enough pasta to fill a crater. Sliced courgettes, onions and peppers really brought

out the simple, yet very scrumptious basil and tomato sauce. We had been aiming for a pudding, but I was filled to the brim.

Two starters, two mains and three drinks came in at £50.90, which some may consider a tad pricey, but put the quality (and quantity) of food on a set of scales with money on the other side and I'd say you have a fairly balanced load. Plus I must add my other half went for one of the most expensive things on the menu (as ever) – the 10oz sirloin steak, which was £18.95 – whereas most mains range from £9.95 to £12.95.

The pub also caters for all alcoholic tastes. Alongside a selection of ales, cider and wine, it's a gin lover's paradise with more than 48 artisan options and there's even a whiskey snug to settle into for a more cosy night out. I can safely say we will be back for a tipple or two, plus I need to try out their bean burger.

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"The 'from' price and price bands vary for each show — see brochure/web page for details.

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here, often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe. The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again.

Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Make your own way breaks are also available to book.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.⁹⁵

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There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday.

The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Rail inclusive breaks – Three days

Theatre Showstopper from £239.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on Sunday.

Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade, plus two nights stay at a four-star London hotel (supplements may apply).

Includes a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance.

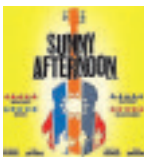
Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Saturday Night from £149.⁹⁵

Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £159.⁹⁵

For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the evening performance (meal not included).

Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket and the option to upgrade plus an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.



DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)



Mid town house is spaciouly set over three floors

The Bridles is an exciting development within walking distance of the bustling town of Bloxwich in Walsall.

34 Bell Lane, The Bridles is mid town house that is spaciouly laid out over three floors and comes with a single detached garage and a parking space.

It is for sale through Marrion & Co at £179,950.

The ground floor features a living and dining area with French doors to the rear garden, a fitted kitchen and convenient WC. The first floor holds three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The impressive master bedroom with dressing area and en-suite is located on the second floor and this home still benefits from builders warranty.

In more detail the property has a small garden to the front with a path leading to the front door. There is also a gated shared pedestrian access to the rear of the home.

The entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor and doors through to a WC, kitchen and lounge/diner.

The kitchen overlooks the front, having a range of wall and base units with work surface over, space and plumbing for a washing machine and plumbing for a dish washer, a built in electric over, gas hob with extractor over and tiled flooring.

The lounge/diner has French doors to the rear garden.

Overlooks

On the first floor is a landing with an airing cupboard and stairs off to the second floor.

Bedroom two overlooks the front; bedroom three overlooks the rear and bedroom four overlooks the front on this floor. There is also a family bathroom which overlooks the rear and includes a bath, WC, wash hand basin, extractor fan and tiled flooring.

Off the second floor landing is the impressive master bedroom which overlooks the front. It has a storage cupboard and a dressing area with a Velux-style window and an en-suite shower room/WC with a Velux-style window with a shower cubicle and tiled flooring.

Outside the rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with a patio area and a gate leading to a separate garage to the rear and parking space.

This home is also close to local amenities and transport links.

Paul Marrion owns and runs Marrion & Co with his wife Kathy. They launched the firm in 2009.

After working for so many companies Paul ended up with only one wish, and that was to one day have his own business! Paul said: "We have always believed in the importance of the customer, without them we don't have a business."

KEY FEATURES

- On an exciting development
- Within walking distance of town
- Three storey
- Detached garage and parking
- Impressive master bedroom
- Four bedrooms
- French doors to garden

BLOXWICH £179,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Marrion & Co; TEL:
01922 404446; EMAIL: sales@marrionsurveyors.co.uk



K. Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION

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PROPERTY

Semi-detached family home



With solar panels and new double glazing and a re-fitted utility, this three-bedroom semi-detached residence in Cunningham Road, Walsall, also has off road parking and a large rear garden.

Within close proximity to local schools and amenities it has an entrance hall with stairs off, a through lounge with a feature gas fire and laminate flooring, a kitchen a range of units, roll top working surfaces, splash-back tiling and an extractor fan and linoleum flooring,

**WALSALL
£125,000**

a utility room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom with a bath and a shower and glass shower screen. The rear garden has a patio area and lawn. The agents stress that this property needs to be viewed.

For further information contact Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

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EPC: E **Norfolk Crescent, Aldridge**

- . Semi-Detached House
- . Lounge, Dining Room
- . Kitchen, GF Toilet
- . Three Bedrooms
- . Bathroom, Separate Toilet
- . Garage

£750pcm - plus fees

EPC: D **Woodruff Way, Walsall**

- . Semi-Detached House
- . Lounge with Dining Area
- . Newly Fitted Kitchen
- . Three Bedrooms
- . Bathroom, En-Suite
- . Driveway, Garage

£695pcm - plus fees

EPC: D **Buxton Close, Bloxwich**

- . Extended End Terraced
- . Four Bedrooms
- . Hallway, Lounge
- . Dining Room, Sitting Room
- . Guest Cloakroom, Kitchen
- . Bathroom, UPVC DG, GCH

£625pcm - plus fees

EPC: C **Church Street, Darlaston**

- . Three Storey Town House
- . Three Bedrooms
- . Lounge & Kitchen
- . Shower Room & Bathroom
- . Garden & Parking
- . GCH & DG

£550pcm - plus fees

EPC: E **Birmingham Street, Willenhall**

- . Ground Floor Flat
- . One Bedroom
- . Bathroom, GCH
- . Kitchen, Lounge
- . Private Gardens
- . Allocated Parking Space

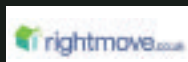
£360pcm - plus fees

EPC: D **Church Street, Darlaston**

- . Ground Floor Flat
- . One Bedroom
- . Reception Hall
- . Lounge, Kitchen
- . Shower Room
- . DG, Electric Heating

£350pcm - plus fees

An application fee of £200 inclusive of VAT is charged for upto two applications sharing the same property



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OFFERS AROUND: £480,000

Beacon Road
Willenhall

NEW

EXTENDED FIVE BEDROOM Paul Dubberley Are Pleased To Present This Much Extended Five Bedroom Family Home, In The Popular New Invention Area. Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Rear Extended Sitting Room, Extended Kitchen Diner, Downstairs Wet Room, Large Landing, Four Double Bedrooms, Fifth Single Bedroom, Part Finished Ensuite Shower Room And Family Bathroom.

OFFERS AROUND: £195,000

Moseley Road
Bilston

LOVELY Traditional 3 bedroom detached house, entrance porch and hallway, dining room, lounge/diner, kitchen, bathroom, driveway and garage, front and rear gardens, central heating and double glazing (where specified) call Paul Dubberley to view. EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £170,000

Little Island Drive
Willenhall

NEW

OPEN HOUR SATURDAY 28TH MAY - CALL TO BOOK YOUR SLOT! IMMACULATEDLY PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM THREE STOREY PROPERTY. Entrance Hall, Downstairs W.C, Large Open Plan Kitchen/Living/Diner, Separate Lounge, Three Double Bedrooms, Two Ensuite Shower Rooms And Family Bathroom. The Property Further Benefits From Off Road Parking To Front, Plus Good Sized Front Rear And Side Gardens.

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000

Bloxwich Road South
Willenhall

STAR BUY EXTENDED FAMILY HOME NOT TO BE MISSED Three Bedroom Extended Family Home In Willenhall Briefly Comprising Of: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms, Ensuite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, Garage, Front Driveway And Rear Garden! NO CHAIN! CALL 01902 633323! EPC - D

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000

Cemetery Road
Willenhall

NEW

Paul Dubberley Are Pleased To Present This Recently Refurbished Three Bedroom End Terrace Home. Lounge, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Family Bathroom And Three Bedrooms. Externally There Is A Secluded Rear Garden. NO CHAIN. POTENTIAL TO PURCHASE THIS HOME WITH A SITTING TENANT £9400 P/A (7.6% NET). PIA

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

Fraser Street
Bilston

THIS WON'T BE AROUND LONG Offers over & pound;70,000 for this 2 bedroom terraced house, entrance porch, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified) no upward chain, call now 01902 494966 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £70,000

Bay Avenue
Bilston

NEW

Modern 4 bedroom (all doubles) detached house, lounge, kitchen, downstairs wc, En-suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, double glazing and central heating, garage and driveway, rear garden, call 01902 494966 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000

Birmingham New Road
Bilston

NEW

REFURBISHED 2 Bedroom Terraced house, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Garden, Central Heating, Double Glazed (where specified) and no upward chain, call Bilston 01902 494966

OFFERS AROUND: £104,950

Mount Pleasant
Bilston

NEW

THIS COULD BE YOU Great project or Family house or Multi let property...you decide !! 4 Bedrooms plus an office/nursery, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, downstairs wc, kitchen/diner, loads of potential, no upward chain, call 01902 494966 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £129,950

Clarence Road
Bilston

NEW

READY STEADY GO !! Cracking 2 bedroom semi detached house with no upward chain and ready to move straight in, lounge, modern kitchen/diner, sun room, wc and potential utility area, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing (where specified) block paved front and enclosed rear garden, call 01902 494966 to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £98,000

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Stowheath Lane
Wolverhampton

Well Presented Two Bedroom Mid Terrace Home With Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Briefly Comprising Of: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Two Bedrooms And Enclosed Rear Garden.

VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! NO CHAIN! EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000

Neachells Lane
Wolverhampton

IDEAL BUY TO LET A traditional three bedroom terrace, just a short distance from Wednesfield town centre. The property offers a good standard of accommodation and briefly comprises of Kitchen, Lounge, Three good size bedrooms, Family bathroom, Garden, double glazing and central heating.

OFFERS AROUND: £79,000

Pendlebury Close
Walsall

NEW

Paul Dubberley Are Pleased To Present This Well Presented Modern Top Floor Apartment, Benefiting From UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, The Apartment Comprises Of: Hall, Lounge With Patio Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. This Apartment Further Benefits From Allocated Parking And Communal Gardens!

OFFERS AROUND: £72,500

Webster Road
Willenhall

NEW

IN NEED OF MODERNISATION/REFURBISHMENT The Property Comprises Of: Porch, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Shower Room. The Apartment Comprises Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.

NO CHAIN! CALL 01902 633323 TO VIEW!

OFFERS AROUND: £88,950

Moorcroft
Bilston

NEW

Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location.

VIEWINGS ADVISED. Please note we are aware of mines in the area.

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £109,950

Hinchliffe Avenue
Bilston

3 Bedroom Semi detached house, Driveway and Garage, Entrance Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Double Glazed where specified and Central Heating. Call for more details.

OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

St Chads Road
Bilston

No upward chain on this 2 bedroom detached bungalow, entrance porch and hallway, 2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/diner, shower room, central heating and double glazing (where specified) driveway providing off road parking and rear garden, call now to view.

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

Berrington Drive
Coseley

NEW

This is the one Lovely 3 bedroom modern semi detached house in great condition, entrance porch and hallway, modern kitchen and office area/dining area, downstairs wc, conservatory, modern shower room, double glazing and central heating, driveway, garage and garden, call now for details.

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950

Constantine Way
Bilston

An immaculate Detached Residence on the popular Bridgefields Estate. Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing & No Upward Chain. Spacious Family accommodation Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.

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- Superb Kitchen



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- Garage And Extensive Driveway

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- Stunning Breakfast Kitchen



- Two En-suite Shower Rooms
- Luxury Family Bathroom, Garage
- Pleasant Landscaped Gardens
- Large Driveway

£365,000



COPPICE FARM HEBDEN GROVE

- Well Appointed Extended Detached Residence
- Hall, Guests Wc
- Three Reception Rooms, Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen



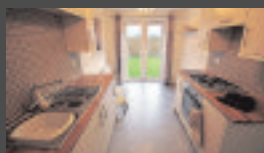
- Four Excellent Bedrooms, Study
- Bathroom, En-suite Shower Room, Garage
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Driveway, Gardens

£280,000



WILLENHALL LAKELOT CLOSE

- An Impressive 4 Bed Recently Built Detached
- Hall, Guests Wc
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Excellent Breakfast Kitchen



- Family Bathroom
- En-suite
- Garage & Driveway
- Gardens

Offers Over £215,000



WILLENHALL WELLAND GROVE

- Greatly Improved Detached
- Highly Sought, After Estate
- Three Reception Rooms, Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen



- Three Bedrooms, Re-fitted Bathroom
- Pleasant Gardens, Detached Garage
- Driveway, Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£170,000



WILLENHALL PATTENHAM CLOSE (OFF STROUD AVENUE)

- Outstanding Detached Bungalow
- Popular Location
- Hall, Lounge
- Impressive Re-fitted Kitchen



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Luxury Re-fitted Shower Room
- Block Paved Driveway, Pleasant Gardens
- Gas Central Heating And Double Glazing

OFFERS OVER £170,000



WILLENHALL DARVEL ROAD

- Extended Three Bedrooms Link Detached
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Garage



- Driveway
- Impressive Gardens
- Predominantly Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£159,950



NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE

- Well Presented Modern End Terrace
- Hall, Guests Wc • NHBC Certificate
- Spacious Lounge With Dining Area
- Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms



- Bathroom, En-suite Shower Room
- Gas CH • Double Glazing
- Two Allocated Parking Spaces
- Gardens • Good School Catchment

£144,950



WILLENHALL HONEYBOURNE WAY

- Superb Modern 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Re-fitted Kitchen



- Bathroom
- Garage
- Pleasant Gardens
- Driveway

£160,000



SHORT HEATH TENNYSON ROAD

- Completely Renovated Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge
- Newly Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms



- Newly Fitted Bathroom, Separate Wc
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Front And Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£120,000



NEW INVENTION FLETCHER ROAD

- For Sale By Modern Method Of Auction, Starting Bid Price £113,000 Plus Reservation Fee
- Three Bedroom Link Detached House



- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage & Driveway

STARTING BID £113,000



WILLENHALL CIPSY LANE

- Spacious Traditional 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen



- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Long Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £110,000



WILLENHALL WALSALL ROAD

- Beautifully Presented 2 Bedrooms End Terrace
- Hall, Guests WC
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Gardens
- Garage To The Rear

OFFERS OVER £110,000



WILLENHALL ASHMORE LAKE ROAD

- Well Presented 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Excellent Bathroom



- Gas CH
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £110,000



WILLENHALL SHEPPELL GREEN

- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached
- Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom



- Gas Central Heating System
- Majority Double Glazing
- Front And Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£110,000



COPPICE FARM COTSWOLD GROVE

- Much Improved Mid Terrace Bungalow In Cul De Sac Location For Over 60's Only
- Hall, Lounge, Conservatory
- Newly Fitted Kitchen



- Two Bedrooms, Newly Fitted Wet Room
- Majority Double Glazing, Shared Ownership
- Communal Parking
- No Upward Chain

£105,000



BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE

- Improved Semi Detached
- No Chain
- Lounge • Kitchen
- Double Glazing



- Two Double Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Gas CH • Driveway
- Gardens

£99,950



NEW INVENTION SQUIRES GROVE

- Spacious Second Floor Apartment In Popular Development
- Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Two Excellent Double Bedrooms



- Bathroom
- En-suite Shower Room
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking Space

OFFERS OVER £92,000



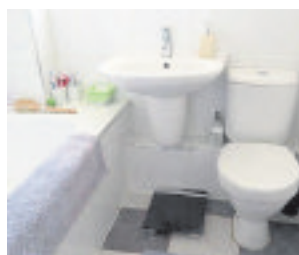
Well presented semi in a popular location

BROWNHILLS, WALSALL
£129,950

This well presented semi-detached home in Hussey Road, Brownhills, Walsall lies in a popular location.

Coming with a conservatory and a modern kitchen and bathroom, it is for sale through Goodchilds at £129,950.

Within easy access to the local high street, schools, main roads to Lichfield, Cannock and Walsall town centres and the M6 Toll, it has an entrance porch, an entrance hall with stairs off, a lounge with a bay window and a wall mounted fireplace, a kitchen with a range of wall and base units, centre island/breakfast bar, a bathroom with a bath and shower, first floor landing, three bedrooms and an upstairs guest WC. Outside is ample off-road parking for several vehicles and a rear garden with lawn and patio and borders. For further information contact Goodchilds on 01543 226655 or visit www.goodchilds-uk.com



Modern mews house appeals for first-time buyers' search

WILLENHALL
£95,000

<<<

An exceptionally attractive and superbly appointed modern mews house of considerable appeal for first time buyers, 16 Packwood Close, Willenhall, is for sale.

In a convenient position for commuting, it has well decorated accommodation.

This briefly comprises a porch, an stunning open plan living/kitchen with white "high gloss" doorsextending larder unit, granite effect working surfaces, wall tiling above the work surfaces, built-in electric double oven, separate gas hob unit, canopy with illuminated cooker hood with extractor fan, washing machine, refrigerator and separate freezer and slate-effect ceramic tile floor, a double bedroom, deluxe bathroom, driveway and a rear garden.

For further information contact Jackson Lile & Close on 01902 712812 or visit www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk



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 7 Queens Parade, Walsall, WS3 2EX



Goodchilds
 Estate Agents & Lettings



Park Road, Walsall

- Portfolio of 5 Apartments
- Currently Achieving £31,000 P.A.
- Built in 2008
- Private Secure Car Park
- Close to Bloxwich High Street
- Remaining NHBC Warranty
- 117 Remaining on Lease
- Sought After Location
- Great School Catchment
- Viewing Essential!

£550,000



Sanstone Road, Bloxwich

- NO CHAIN
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- SCOPE TO IMPROVE/EXTEND
- IN NEED OF SOME MODERNISATION
- GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS
- GROUND FLOOR WC
- RECENTLY FITTED CH BOILER
- DOUBLE GLAZING

£230,000



Vernon Way, Walsall

- Two/Three Bedroom
- One/Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Ample Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £179,000



Broad Lane, Wolverhampton

- Superb Views to Front & Rear
- Driveway for Several Vehicles
- 25 Foot Lounge
- Space and Potential to Improve
- Semi Rural Location
- Two Storey Rear Extension

£145,000



Lincoln Road, Chuckery

- Much Extended & Improved Property
- Two Storey Rear Extension
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Block Paved Driveway
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Further potential to improve
- Sought After Location
- Viewing Essential!

£195,000



Lord Street, Palfrey

- No Upward Chain
- Queen Mary's & Blue Coat Schools Nearby
- Several Primary Schools locally
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garage
- Kitchen/Diner
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Sought After Location
- Great School Catchment
- Viewing Essential

£165,000



Park Road, Bloxwich

- Contemporary Block Built in 2008
- Achieving £5940 A.R
- Private Secure Parking
- Security Gated Entrance
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Other Apartments Available

£107,500



Wilkes Avenue, Bentley

- Traditional Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Side Garage
- Driveway
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Close to King Charles Primary School
- Great Potential to Improve/Extend
- Located Close to M6 J10
- Viewing Essential
- CASH BUYERS ONLY

Offers in Excess of £130,000



Inglewood Close, Bentley

- No Upward Chain
- Off Road Parking
- Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sought After Location
- Reputable Schools Nearby
- Transport Links to Walsall
- Viewing Essential

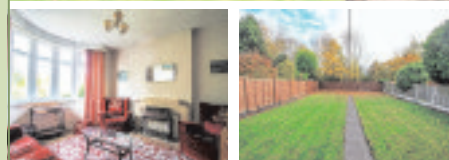
Offers in Excess of £120,000



Park Road, Bloxwich

- Contemporary Apartment Block
- Achieving £6300 A.R
- Private Secure Parking
- Security Gated Entrance
- Second Floor Apartment
- Other Apartments Available

£107,500



Hollemeadow Avenue, Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£100,000



Penderel Street, Bloxwich

- No Chain
- Ideal First Time Purchase
- Suitable Buy-to-Let Investment
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating

Offers Over £100,000



Park Road, Bloxwich

- No Upward Chain
- Achieving £6300 AR
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Secure Gated Parking
- Other Apartments Available in the Block
- Sought After Location
- Near to Bloxwich High Street
- Viewing Essential!

£107,500



Fountains Way, Bloxwich

- Well Presented Mid Town House
- Off Road Parking
- Popular Mossley Development
- Lounge with Bay Window
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Fitted Bathroom
- Attractive Rear Garden

£104,950

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Walsall
01922 711444
 7 Queens Parade, Walsall, WS3 2EX



Ezekiel Lane, Short Heath

- Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Living Space
- Extended Modern Kitchen
- Private Gardens
- Ample Storage
- Garage
- Block Paved Driveway
- Viewing Essential!

£190,000



The Orchard, Bloxwich

- Sought After Location
- Close to Walsall Academy
- Modern Detached Property
- Corner of the Cul-de-Sac
- Ample Off Road Parking & Garage
- Modernisation Required
- Extended Kitchen/Utility Area
- Ground Floor WC
- En-Suite Shower to Master
- No Chain

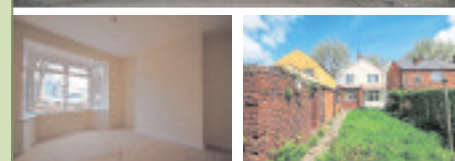
£185,000



Waters Keep, Walsall

- Light and Airy Lounge
- Spacious Kitchen / Diner
- Downstairs W.C
- Rear French Doors
- Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom

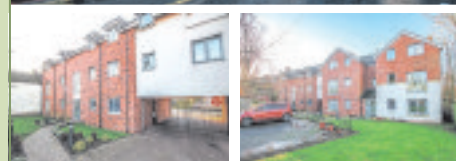
From £130,995



Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- Traditional Detached Property
- Fully Refurbished
- Off Road Parking
- Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom
- Superb Rear Garden
- Close to Bloxwich High Street
- Great School Catchment
- Viewing Essential!

£175,000



Park Road, Walsall

- Contemporary Apartment Block
- Currently Achieving £6600 A.R
- Private Secure Parking
- Security Gated Entrance
- Spacious Second Floor Apartment
- Largest Apartment in Block
- Other Apartments Available
- Built in 2008
- Sought After Location
- Viewing Essential!

£115,000



Field Road, Bloxwich

- Modernised Period Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Refitted Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Close to Asda Supermarket
- 2 Minutes Walk from the Sports Centre
- Viewing Essential!

£95,000



Park Road, Bloxwich

- No Upward Chain
- Achieving £6300 AR
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Master
- Secure Gated Parking

£107,500



Harrison Street, Walsall

- No Chain
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Popular Location
- Ideal First Purchase
- Suitable Buy-to-Let
- Viewing Essential!

£95,000



West Bromwich Road, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Period Style Terrace
- Through Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Located Close to Whitehall School
- Gas Central Heating
- Suitable Buy-to-Let (Achieving £475pcm)

£95,000



Fishley Lane, Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Modern Finish Throughout
- Ideal For First Time Buyers & Investors
- Spacious Open Plan Living Area
- Good Sized Double Bedroom
- Allocated & Visitor Parking

£85,000



Church Place, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Kitchen & Living Area
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- White Bathroom Suite
- Ample Storage
- Allocated Parking
- Secure Intercom Entrance
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £80,000



Livingstone Road, Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- Third Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Raised Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Entrance Hall
- Double Glazing

Offers in Excess of £64,000

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Three bedroom semi detached property in a popular area

DARLASTON
£129,995 >>>

This well presented three-bedroomed modern style semi-detached property in Memory Lane, Darlaston, lies on the ever popular Mews Estate.

It is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £129,995.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge with a feature fireplace opening into the dining area with double glazed patio doors opening to the rear and attractive wood-effect flooring, a fitted kitchen with wood-effect units, contrasting working surfaces and black splash-back tiling, garage and front driveway parking, three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

For further information contact L&S Prestige Estates on 01902 606595 or visit www.prestige-estatesuk.com



Second floor flat is an ideal buy-to-let

WALSALL
£64,995

Currently let out at £425 pcm, this one bedroomed second floor flat in Little Station Street, Walsall, lies in the heart of the town.

The accommodation with double glazing includes a lounge, a modern fitted kitchen and a bathroom and a double bedroom. It is entered via a reception hall with wood-effect laminate flooring and entry phone, lounge, kitchen and bathroom.

Contact Redstones on 01922 235350 or visit www.redstones.co.uk

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11 Market Place | Willenhall | WV13 2AA



One-bedroomed apartment ideal for over-55s

A home for the over-55s, this one-bedroomed apartment in Wood End Farm, Sutton Road, Walsall, comes with a communal living room, communal extra kitchen and beautifully landscaped and immaculately maintained communal grounds.

It is for sale through Fraser Wood at £89,950.

WALSALL
£89,950

With double glazing and under-floor heating, it has a reception hall with stair lift to the first floor, spacious entrance hall, lounge/dining room with Velux windows and partly sloping ceiling, fitted kitchen

with contemporary white units, contrasting black work surfaces and integrated appliances and floor tiling, double bedroom with built-in double wardrobe and an en suite wet room with shower, WC and wash basin in contemporary style, and allocated parking.

Contact Fraser Wood on 01902 606595 or visit the agent's website at www.prestige-estatesuk.com

Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA

0121 289 3838

Auction

Tuesday 7th
June 2016
at 6.00pm Precisely

Banks's Stadium, Walsall
Football Club, Bescot
Crescent, Walsall, WS1 4SA

Roberts Road Walsall

26th May and 2nd June at 11am,



Set on a corner plot, this traditionally styled semi detached property is in need of modernisation and would make an ideal purchase for investor or builder, conveniently located the property comprises: Ground Floor Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge 4.5m x 3.6m, Kitchen 4m x 2.1m, Bathroom 2.1m x 4m First Floor Bedroom One 4.5m x 2.7m, Bedroom Two 3m x 2.5m, Bedroom Three 3m x 2.3m Outside Fore Garden with off street parking, side and rear gardens.

●Guide Price **£60,000 PLUS**

Webster Road Walsall

26th May and 2nd June at 11:30am



Ideal opportunity for a builder or investor, this traditionally styled mid terrace property is in need of complete modernisation. Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge 4.5m x 3.7m, Kitchen 2.1m x 2.2m, Bathroom 2.2m x 1.3m, Lobby, W.C. First Floor Bedroom One 5.6m x 2.7m, Bedroom Two 3.3m x 2.6m, Bedroom Three 4m x 2.2m.

●Guide Price **£40,000 - £45,000**

Providence Lane Walsall

26th May 2nd June at 1pm



In need of complete modernisation (buyers are advised to check the Mining Report) this traditionally styled end terrace property is conveniently located close to Leamore centre and offers an ideal building project. The accommodation comprises: Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge 4.1m x 4m, Kitchen 2.4m x 1.4m, Bathroom, Lobby with W.C. First Floor Bedroom One 4.2m x 2.18m, Bedroom Two 3.5m x 2.5m, Bedroom Three 2.5m x 2.4m.

●Guide Price **£25,000 - £30,000**

Stafford Street Walsall

By appointment through Auctioneers



●Guide Price **£70,000 - £80,000**

A unique opportunity to purchase a Freehold investment/development opportunity in the heart of the Walsall Regeneration Area. Comprising two self contained retail units. (One let and in good condition, the other semi derelict) together with extensive yard and outbuildings. The property also benefits from first and second floor accommodation which is in need of full modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor 21-22 Stafford Street Currently subject to a Lease dated 1/9/2005 for 15 years at an annual rent of £8,000 per annum and license to assign dated 31/1/2013 to Fletchers Cake Shop. The accommodation comprises:- Shop Front, Baking Area, Storage Room, Kitchen, W.C, Rear Yard Room at the back L shaped room and 23 Stafford Street First and Second Floors 21-23 Stafford Street Staircases (currently unsafe) lead from both 21-22 and 23 to first floor accommodation which consists of two self contained units over two floors which are in need of complete refurbishment and modernisation.

Blakenall Lane Walsall

26th May and 2nd June at 12pm



Victorian mid terrace property in need of improvement and modernisation, conveniently located just off Bloxwich Road. With gas fired central heating and mainly double glazed the property offers an ideal opportunity for a builder/developer comprises:- Ground Floor Dining Room 3.8m x 3.14m, Lobby with stairs off, Lounge 3.8m x 3.7m plus bay, Kitchen 1.95m x 3.45m, Shower Room 1.84m x 1.82m, First Floor Landing leads to Bedroom One 3.6m x 3.14m, Bedroom Two 2.8m x 3.7m, Bedroom Three 3.45m x 1.93m with Potterton gas fired central heating boiler.

●Guide Price **£60,000 PLUS**

Bassett Street Walsall

26th May and 2nd June at 1:30pm



A substantially extended traditional semi detached property in need of complete modernisation and improvement situated in a desirable location close to Manor Hospital. An ideal rental property once completed, the property comprises:- Ground Floor Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge 5.13m into bay x 4m, double doors lead to Extended Breakfast Kitchen 5.3m x 5m, First Floor Bedroom One with Bathroom off 3.2m x 3m, Bedroom Two 3.2m x 2.3m, Bedroom Three 2.3m x 2.6m, Outside Brick Garage (no drop kerb) 5.9m x 2m, Fore Garden, Rear Garden with range of outbuildings.

●Guide Price **£73,000 PLUS**

Springfields Rushall

26th May and 2nd June at 10:15am



This double glazed and centrally heated mid town house is conveniently located in a popular residential area close to Rushall centre and would make an ideal purchase for builder or investor. The spacious well planned accommodation comprises of the following:- Ground Floor Reception Hall with stairs off, Through Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Lean to and Verandah, Workshop First Floor Landing, Bedroom One 4m x 3.15m, Bedroom Two 3.8m x 2.8m, Bedroom Three 2.4m x 2.4m, Bathroom, Separate W.C. Outside Fore and private enclosed rear garden.

●Guide Price **£85,000 PLUS**

Springfields Rushall

26th May and 2 June at 10am



A delightfully appointed and maintained semi detached corner bungalow benefiting from gas fired central heating and UPVC double glazing. Situated in a popular residential area within a short walk of Rushall centre, the property would be ideal as a rental or for owner occupation for a first time buyer. Ground Floor Fully Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room 3.65m x 3m, Rear Hallway, Lounge 4.6m x 3m, Kitchen 2.9m x 1.6m, Side Verandah 2.7m x 1.2m, Shower Room 2.3m x 1.6m with tiled cubicle and matching suite, Utility Room 2.6m x 1.6m with door to Conservatory/Lean To 2.9m x 2.4m First Floor Landing providing access to Two Bedrooms, Outside Driveway, whilst to the rear is an enclosed private rear garden.

●Guide Price **£95,000 PLUS**

Station Street Darlaston

25th May and 2nd June 2.45 pm



This Victorian three bedroom and terraced property requires some improvement and modernisation but does offer upvc double glazing and gas fired central heating. Ground Floor Front Room 3.73m x 3.12m having upvc double glazed bay window to front, central heating radiator, power points and ceiling light point. Rear Sitting Room 3.93m x 3.83m having upvc double glazed window to rear, stairs off to first floor, central heating radiator and ceiling light point. Kitchen 3.02m x 2.08m. Tiled Bathroom with upvc double glazed window to rear, matching suite comprising low level W.C, wash hand basin and paneled bath. First Floor Bedroom One, Bedroom Two and Bedroom Three.

●Guide Price **£50,000 PLUS**

Lichfield Street Walsall

By appointment through Auctioneer



●Guide Price **£140,000 PLUS**

Situated in the heart of Walsall Town Centre, this substantial detached commercial building is currently separated into three self contained units (with a combined internal floor area of around 3800 sq ft) together with substantial rear car park. Making an ideal investment or owner occupier opportunity.

Thorne Road Willenhall

25th May and 2nd June 3.30 pm



In need of complete modernisation and improvement, this mid terrace property occupies a convenient popular location and makes an ideal purchase for a builder or investor. Ground Floor Entrance Hall, Lounge 3.8m x 4.7m, Kitchen 2.8m x 2.2m, Wet Room 2.8m x 1.4m First Floor Bedroom One (rear) 3m x 3.8m, Bedroom Two (front) 3.1m x 2.6m, Bedroom Three (front) 3.14m x 2m. Outside Fore and Rear Gardens.

●Guide Price **£45,000 - £50,000**

Grange Drive Sutton Coldfield

By appointment through auctioneers



●Guide Price **£130,000 PLUS**

A spacious, second floor (penthouse) apartment in this superbly situated modern development ideal for the investor, professional or downsizing purchaser who can't fail to be impressed with the space and layout within. The accommodation includes: Communal Hall, Stairs and Landing, Hall, impressive Living Room with large living area by virtue of the turret feature, two double bedrooms, En Suite to Master Bedroom, Family Bathroom, Communal grounds and two allocated parking spaces. Accommodation Lounge 7.69m max into turret x 4.42m, Kitchen 3.20m x 1.83m, Bedroom One 3.15m x 2.82m, Bedroom Two 3.03m x 2.79m

Wensleydale Road Perry Barr

Wed 25th May and Thursday 2nd June at 2pm



●Guide Price **£85,000 PLUS**

This three bedroom semi detached property is in need of modernisation. The property is situated in a popular residential area within Perry Barr not far from the A45 offering a great transport link into Birmingham City Centre. With all amenities close at hand the property comprises: Ground Floor Lounge with bay window to front (3.6m x 2.8m), Kitchen (2.2m x 1.5m), Rear reception room (3.9m x 2.8m) leading to conservatory (5.6m x 2.2m) offering views of the garden. First Floor Bedroom one with bay window to front (3.7m x 2.8m), Bedroom Two with window to rear (3.9m x 2.8m), Bedroom three (2m x 1.7m), Bathroom (2.4m x 1.6m)

Warner Road Walsall

26th May 2 June at 10:30am



Conveniently located substantial semi detached property in need of modernisation and improvement comprising: Ground Floor Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge 5.18m x 3.3m, Kitchen 4m x 2.6m, Bathroom 3.1m x 1.3m, Side Verandah 5.3m x 1.7m First Floor Bedroom One 3.8m x 3.2m, Bedroom Two 3.3m x 3.2m, Bedroom Three 3.3m x 2m

●Guide Price **£59,000 PLUS**

Station Place Walsall

26th May 2 June at 12:30pm



Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac within a short walk of Bloxwich town centre, this traditionally styled double glazed, semi detached property is in need of modernisation and improvement. Ground Floor Reception Hall, Lounge 4.5m x 3.6m, Kitchen 2.25m x 2.18m, Shower Room 2.25m x 1.3m, Lobby, W.C. First Floor Bedroom One 5.6m x 2.6m, Bedroom Two 4m x 3.2m, Bedroom Three 2.8m x 2.3m

●Guide Price **£40,000 - £50,000**

●Guides are provided as an indication of each seller's minimum expectation. They are not necessarily figures which a property will sell for and may change at any time prior to the auction. Each property will be offered subject to a Reserve (a figure below which the Auctioneer cannot sell the property during the auction) which we expect will be set within the Guide Range or no more than 10% above a single figure Guide

L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



LANE HEAD



BENTLEY WHARF, WILLENHALL
Executive Two Bed Ground Floor Apartment, Generous Open Plan Kitchen/ Diner, Lounge, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing & C/ Heating, Secure Gated Development, Canalside Location.

£99,950

PORTOBELLO



CLEVELAND CL, W-TON
Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property, Lounge/ Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Double Glazed & Central Heated, Driveway and Enclosed Rear Garden. Viewing Recommended.

£100,000

NEW INVENTION



JOHN RILEY DR, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Having Porch, Spacious Entrance Hallway, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Separate Sitting Room, Modern Refitted Bathroom, D/G, C/H & Off Road Parking.

£135,000

NEW INVENTION



SQUIRES GROVE, WILLENHALL
Modern Three Bed Mid Town House, Property Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Ground Floor W.C., Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Master With En-Suite And Family Bathroom, GCH, DG, Rear Garden And Driveway.

£137,500

WILLENHALL



NOOZE LANE, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Detached Bungalow On A Corner Plot Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Refitted Wet Room, D/G, C/H, Detached Outbuilding, Extensive Rear Garden/Yard.

£184,995

SCHOLARS HEATH



PRINCETHORPE RD, WILLENHALL
Modern Three Storey Four Bed Townhouse Having Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Conservatory, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, C/H, D/G, Garage & Driveway.

£210,000

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SHORT HEATH



HOWE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL
Two Bed Mid Town House, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Two Double Bedrooms, Veranda, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, C/H, Blocked Paved Driveway, Rear Garden.

£99,995

NEW INVENTION



BALMORAL DR, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Inner Hallway, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, C/H, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Rear Garden. Must Be Viewed.

£129,995

ESSINGTON



THE GABLES, W-HAMPTON
Two Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C., Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Garage. Sought After Location.

£135,000

WILLENHALL



BEECH RD, WILLENHALL
Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow. 21ft Spacious Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, Gas C/H, Garage/ Workshop, Off Road Parking, Carport And Rear Garden.

£169,995

COPPICE FARM



GAIRLOCH ROAD, WILLENHALL
Well Presented Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., Three Bedrooms, En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Corner Plot, Driveway And Garage.

£199,995

ESSINGTON



SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON
Substantial Three Bed Detached Bungalow Having Imposing Entrance Hall, 38ft Through Lounge, Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility, Study/Playroom, Two Bathrooms, D/G, C/H, Garage, Generous Plot.

Offers Over £350,000

WILLENHALL



SOMERSET PLACE, W-HALL
Spacious Three/ Four Bed Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Generous Kitchen/ Diner, Shower Room, Cellar, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking.

£184,995

POOL HAYES



RAVENSCROFT RD, WILLENHALL
Extended Four Bed Semi Having Lounge, Sitting Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom And Separate Utility, Master With En-Suite, First Floor W.C, D/G, GCH, Outside W.C, Garage

£189,995

MUST VIEW



CRAB LANE, WILLENHALL
Prestigious Extended Four Bed Detached Having Lounge, Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility, Galleried Landing, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Garage, Substantial Plot.

£349,950

Potential Building Plot. S.T.P.P.



RAVENSCROFT RD, WILLENHALL
Three Bed Detached Having Through Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/Diner, Ground Floor W.C., Three Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Loft Room, DG, GCH, Double Garage, Extensive Rear Garden.

£259,995

Willenhall 01902 606595

www.prestige-estatesuk.com



Those magnificent Mazdas

By Michael Weston

Mazda's compact CX-3 is an urban crossover that's reprising the success of its CX-5 big brother.

Mazda pulls out all the stops and condenses all the best bits of the gorgeous CX-5 into a smaller package. The CX-3 comes in front or all-wheel drive, and is offered with petrol or diesel power. It's light and it's good looking, with a chunky equipment list and reasonable pricing.

What more could you ask for? All too often, cars in this class look gawky, too stubby, too tall and too narrow. Somehow the CX-3 just looks right, thanks to its cab-back body and long bonnet proportioning. The predatory headlights are anything but cutesy and the coupe-like roofline gives it a real sporting stance.

Like most crossovers in this class, the CX-3 is offered with a choice of front or all-wheel drive chassis, and petrol and diesel engines. There are front-wheel drive models

and the range-topping Sport Nav is all-wheel drive. The CX-3 is also offered with both manual and automatic transmissions.

Mazda's almost fanatical devotion to stripping unnecessary weight out of its cars means that although many of its cars look pretty substantial, they can weigh as much as a car in the next class down. This has all sorts of beneficial effects, not only in terms of vehicle dynamics but also when it comes to efficiency. Case in point: the CX-3 front-wheel drive diesel variant. With emissions of just 105g/km, this model has an official combined economy of 70.6mpg.

When it comes to compact SUVs and crossovers, Mazda's CX-5 may very well be the best car of this kind you can buy, especially in revised form with slicker suspension.

The market's fastest growing segment right now is that for crossovers and compact soft-roading SUVs. If you want something that offers the best of both and offers the finest driving dynamics, the lowest running costs, the most space and arguably the best value in the class, then it's hard to ignore



Mazda's compact CX-3 is an urban crossover, reprising the success of its CX-5 big brother

Mazda's improved CX-5. But try one and you might just think it to be the best.

The CX-5 is excellently packaged, has class-leading economy and emissions plus driving dynamics that set a new benchmark in this sector. Add in a high specification and competitive pricing and you've a compelling proposition, especially since recent suspension and refinement improvements.

As for off road prowess, this car has a

set-up in which the torque is automatically split according to the terrain you're on, so it can direct 100% of drive to the front wheels in normal conditions, with up to 50% then directed to the rear wheels if slip is detected.

The Mazda CX-5 is the least expensive car to run in its segment as well as being the best equipped. It's yet another example of Mazda going its own way, doing things differently. Looking for a car of this kind?



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New Ibiza could be a bit of a bargain

By Ian Donaldson

CLOSE your eyes and you could be driving a Volkswagen or an Audi ... or a Skoda, come to that.

There's the same slick precision about the way everything works; the result of sinking billions of euros in development costs in budgets decided long before the VW Group's recent woes raised their expensive heads.

Now open your eyes (best do it soon if the car is moving) and you'll discover the badge reads SEAT, from the Spanish outpost of the world's biggest – or second biggest – car maker.

That means it's supposed to slip into a VW Group portfolio where Audi equals posh, Volkswagen is solidly middle class, Skoda is all about value (not cheap prices any more) and SEAT has a touch of Latin zing.

Take the car tested here. It's the latest and mildly modified version of the popular Ibiza, uniquely offered in cars of this size as a three-door hatch (the SC), a more practical 5-door or the ST, for Sports Tourer, or what you and I call an estate.

Prices start at precisely £10,000 and adding a couple of doors costs £450 but the boot space says the same. Opt for the estate and it's a slightly longer car with a much bigger load area and a price hike of £1,150 over the three-door Ibiza.

The refreshed range looks much the same as before, with only LED driving lights on dearer models and a new choice of colours and alloy wheels to give the game away. Inside, there's a new steering wheel and new look dials and trim.

Looker

So, not much to talk about there, but the Ibiza always was a bit of a looker in a class where stodgy rules more strongly than smart.

Rather more happens in the bits that matter most, from new steering to refreshed range of eight engines, starting with a 75 horsepower three-cylinder petrol unit and topping out with 192 when the new 146mph Cupra version arrives.

No price for that yet, but the 1.2 litre CONNECT model on test costs £14,170 as a three-door SC. Diesels (with only a single 1.4 litre on offer in a class that is wildly tilted towards petrol) cost from £16,885 and come with a company tax efficient 95g/km rating and theoretical 78.5mpg average consumption.

SEAT is pushing the connectivity of this latest Ibiza, meaning that if you choose the right model, or add an upgrade, you can turn your car into a version of your smartphone. Indeed, go for a CONNECT trim level and there's a Samsung Galaxy A3 mobile phone as part of the package. The car will talk to Android or Apple operating systems, letting you talk to the world with safety and ease, or listen to your favourite music. It will, with a new SEAT CONNECTApp, let you monitor your heartbeat, but best not check moments after that idiot pulled out in front of you without looking.

The CONNECT version of this Ibiza range looks like the sweet spot of the range and comes pretty well loaded with kit. As well as the cleverness outlined above there is satellite navigation, DAB radio and a six speaker sound system with Bluetooth.

A pair of 1.0 litre petrol engines are available, one with a turbo and more power. Next up is the four-cylinder 1.2 litre of the car you see here, with more than useful performance on a mix of country roads, where the 43mpg shown at journey's end seemed about par for the course.

And with every inch covered this latest, mildly tweaked Ibiza displayed the crispness in response from steering, clutch, gearchange and brakes that mark it out as a member of the VW Group family.

Which makes it a bit of a bargain if you choose carefully.

TESTED

SEAT Ibiza SC CONNECT 1.2 TSI 90PS

PRICE £14,170

DRIVETRAIN 1.2 litre 89bhp petrol engine, 5-speed gearbox

PERFORMANCE Top speed 114mph 0-62mph 10.7 seconds

ECONOMY Euro average 56.7mpg CO2 116g/km road tax £0 first year, then £30

SAFETY EuroNCAP 5 stars

INSURANCE Group 13

WARRANTY Three years or 60,000 miles



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ADAM
13 Adam Glam 1.2, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, Rear pkg snrs, Glass roof, USB, 24140m, White£7799
14 Adam Jam 1.2, 16" alloys, Bluetooth, A/C, Cruise cntrl, Black roof, CD, 16764 m, Blue£7999

ASTRA
12 Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr, Front & Rear Parking Sensors, Cruise control, A/C, 35345 m, Brown£6499
13 Astra 1.6 Elite 5dr, 17" alloys, Parking Sensors, leather, Heated seats, A/C, 28506 m, Red£8499
64 Astra 1.6 Design 5dr, 16" alloys, Cruise Control, Electric mirrors, Auto, 17867 m, Silver£8499
14 Astra 1.6 Energy 5dr, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise control, 21736 miles, Grey£8999
64 Astra 1.6 SRI 5dr, 17" alloys, CD, A/C, 5 Speed, Chrome around windows, 26934 m, Silver£8999
14 Astra 1.6 Excite 5dr, 17" alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, 22978 miles, Grey£8999
14 Astra 1.6 Excite 5dr, Bluetooth, Cruise Control, USB, A/C, 34180 miles, Silver£8999
13 Astra 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr, 17" alloys, Parking snrs, leather, 6spd, Htd seats, 30052 m, Blue£9499
15 Astra 1.6 SRI 5dr, 17" alloys, Rear parking snrs, USB, A/C, Cruise Control, 17298 m, Red£8999
13 Astra 2.0 CDTi SRI 5dr, 17" alloys, Parking sensors, Auto, CD Player, A/C, 11540 m, Grey£9999
13 Astra 1.6 Elite 5dr, 17" alloys, Parking sensors, Auto, Heated leather seats, 12861m, Silver£9999

ANTARA
12 Antara 2.2 SE CDTi, 19" alloys, Parking snrs, Auto, leather, Htd seats, 25766 m, Black£11999
13 Antara 2.2 SE CDTi, 19" alloys, Parking Sensors, Auto, Tow bar, Sat Nav, 27984 m, Gold£12999

AMPERA
15 Ampera 1.4 Positiv 5dr, 17" alloys, Lthr seats, Auto, Pkg snrs, R/camera, 4187m, Silver£17999

INSIGNIA
10 Insignia 1.8 Exclusiv, 17" wheel trims, 6 spd, Elec handbrake, CD, A/C, 14234m, Silver£7499
62 Insignia 1.8 Exclusiv, 17" Wheel Trims, Elec handbrake, Rear spoiler, A/C, 18139 m, Silver£8499
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Estate, Rear parking sensors, Cruise control, A/C, Alarm, 28056 m, White£9999
63 Insignia 2.0 Design, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, S/S, 6 speed, Elec Handbrake, 36771 m, Grey£10999
14 Insignia 2.0 Energy CDTi, 18" alloys, Pkg snrs, Climate cntrl, DAB Radio, 21829m, Silver£12999
64 Insignia 2.0 Techline CDTi, 18" alloys, Parking sensors, S/nav, 1/3 leather, 13183m, White£13999
15 Insignia 2.0 Design CDTi, 18" alloys, Paring sensors, S/nav, Bl/th, S/S, 10532 m, Black£14499
15 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Estate, 18" alloys, Parking sensors, S/nav, Bl/th, S/S, 27030 m, Black£14499
64 Insignia 2.0 Ltd, 18" alloys, Parking sensors, Htd seats, VXR Styling Pk, 7542 m, White£16999

MERIVA
61 Meriva 1.4 Excite, 16" alloys, Bluetooth, Cruise control, A/C, 19148 miles, White£6999
13 Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv, 16" wheel trims, Pkg sensors, Auto, Elec handbrake, 13890 m, Silver£8999
13 Meriva 1.4 SE, 17" alloys, 17" alloys, leather, Pkg sensors, 6 speed, Elec handbrake, 8812m, Brown£8999

VIVARO
Vivaro 2.0 CDTi 2700 Sportive Panel Van, 16" alloys, CD player, 50243 m, White£8999+VAT
Vivaro 2.0 CDTi 2900 Sportive Panel Van, 16" alloys, 6 speed, 46290 m, Black£10999+VAT

ZAFIRA
13 Zafira Tourer 2.0 SE, 17" alloys, Auto, Parking Sensors, 1/2 leather, A/C, 11491 m, Silver£13999
15 Zafira Tourer 1.6 T1L CDTi, 17" alloys, S/nav, Pkg sensors, B/th, 7 seats, 5789 m, Red£14999

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13 Mokka 1.4 Exclusiv, 18" alloys, Parking sensors, Bl/th, A/C, S/S, 18722 m, Black£11699
62 Mokka 1.7 SE CDTi, 18" alloys, Pkg sensors, Bl/th, leather, Cruise control, 19679 m, Black£12999
65 Mokka 1.6 Exclusiv, 18" alloys, Parking Sensors, Bl/th, Stop/Start, A/C, 9188 miles, m£13299
64 Mokka 1.4 Turbo SE, 18" alloys, Leather, Pkg sensors, Htd seats, Bl/th, 25339 m, Silver£13999
14 Mokka 1.7 SE CDTi, 18" alloys, Pkg sensors, Leather heated seats, Bl/th, 15639 m, White£13999
63 Mokka 1.7 SE CDTi, 18" alloys, Pkg sensors, Auto, S/nav, Heated seats, 19489 m, Grey£14499
14 Mokka 1.7 SE CDTi, 19" alloys, Pkg Sensors, leather, S/nav, Heated seats, 15961 m, Red£14999
64 Mokka 1.7 Techline, 18" alloys, Front & rear sensors, S/nav, 6986 miles, Blue£15699
64 Mokka 1.7 Techline, 18" alloys, Front & rear sensors, S/nav, 3029 miles, Orange£16199

CORSA
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61 Corsa 1.4 SRI 5dr, 17" alloys, Rear pkg sensors, Body kit, Red & Grey seats, 26017m, White£6499
13 Corsa 1.2 SXi 3dr, 16" alloys, Cruise Control, A/C, 21159 miles, Silver£6499
62 Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr, 17" alloys, Rear Parking Sensors, A/C, Cruise Control, 25635m, Silver£6699
61 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, Heated Seats, Auto, Rear pkg sensors, A/C, 22834m, Black£6999
14 Corsa 1.2 Energy 3dr, 16" alloys, Bluetooth, CD Player, A/C, 1 owner, 9489 miles, Black£6999
12 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, S/nav, Bluetooth, Heated Seats & s/wheel, 38529 m, Brown£6999
12 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr, A/C, Auto, Tow Bar, CD player, Electric windows, 25857 miles, Silver£6999
14 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, 1/2 leather, Heated Seats, CD player, A/C, 35904 miles, Silver£6999
64 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, Heated Seats, 1/2 leather, CD player, A/C, 27019 miles, Silver£6999

63 Corsa 1.2 LE 3dr, 17" alloys, Electric mirrors, Cruise Control, A/C, 11834 miles, White£7999
15 Corsa 1.4 SRI Ecoflex, 16" Black alloys, Bluetooth, A/C, Red & Black dash, 12991m, Black£7999
13 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, Rear pkg sensors, 1/2 leather, Auto, Heated seats, 4507m, Red£8499
13 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, Rear pkg sensors, 1/2 leather, Auto, Heated seats, 6836m, Grey£8499
13 Corsa 1.2 Excite 3dr, 16" alloys, Heated seats & steering wheel, Intellilink, 4304m, Black£8499
13 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, 1/2 leather, Rear pkg sensors, Heated seats, 1929 m, Silver£7999
15 Corsa 1.4 Excite 3dr, 16" alloys, Heated seats & s/wheel, B/th, Intellilink, 3381m, Red£8999
15 Corsa 1.2 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, Parking sensors, Bl/th, 1/2 leather, Heated Seats, 1162m, Grey£7999
15 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr, 16" alloys, Parking sensors, 1/2 leather, Htd seats, Bl/th, 14203m, Silver£9999

VIVA
15 Viva 1.0 SL 5dr, 15" alloys, 1/2 leather, Bl/th, A/C, White line sensors, 5spd, 3320m, Red£7999

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12 Astra 1.4 GTC Sport, 18" alloys, Parking sensors, Auto, CD Player, A/C, 14331 miles, Blue£9499
12 Astra 2.0 GTC SRI, Parking Sensors, Bluetooth, S/nav, Cruise control, A/C, 22740m, Red£10499
64 Astra 1.4 GTC SRI 3dr, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, A/C, Cruise control, 5750 miles, Red£13699
65 Astra 1.4 CDTi SRI 3dr, 19" alloys, Bluetooth, USB, 3755 miles, Black£16999
63 Astra 2.0 VXR 3dr, 20" alloys, Rear sensors, S/nav, Bluetooth, leather, 16957m, Black£17999
15 Astra 2.0 VXR 3dr, 20" alloys, 1/2 leather, rear sensors, S/nav, Bl/th, S/S, 10271m, Blue£19499

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13 Mini Countryman Cooper 1.6, 16" alloys, Bl/th, Tow bar, Rear pkg snrs, 31659m, Blue£10499



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	Total charge for credit	£1,969.88
	Fixed rate of interest	3.51% p/a
	Representative	6.8% APR
	48 monthly payments	£151.31
	One final payment (GFV)	£4,555.00
	Total amount payable	£11,968.88
	Duration of agreement	49 months
	Selected annual mileage	6,000
	Excess mileage charge	9p/mile



16 PLATE UNUSED
Meriva 1.4i 16v Life 5dr

Personal Contract Purchase example: 16 Plate Meriva 1.4 Life 5dr	Cash price of car	£10,999.00
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	Amount of credit	£8,499.00
	Total charge for credit	£2,439.94
	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	5.1%
	Representative	9.9% APR
	48 monthly payments	£147.53
	One final payment (GFV)	£3,857.50
	Total amount payable	£13,438.94
	Duration of agreement (months)	49
	Selected annual mileage	6,000
	Excess mileage charge	9p per mile



16 PLATE UNUSED
Corsa 1.4 Energy 3dr

Personal Contract Purchase example: 16 Plate Corsa 1.4 Energy 3dr	Cash price of car	£9,999.00
	Customer deposit	£178.00
	Amount of credit	£9,821.00
	Total charge for credit	£2,731.88
	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	5.1%
	Representative	9.9% APR
	48 monthly payments	£178.81
	One final payment (GFV)	£3,970.00
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	Amount of credit	£5,949.00
	Total charge for credit	£1,855.48
	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	5.1%
	Representative	9.9% APR
	48 monthly payments	£89.26
	One final payment (GFV)	£3,520.00
	Total amount payable	£10,354.48
	Duration of agreement (months)	49
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Pictures for illustration purposes only.

Astra heads into space

By Jonathan Crouch

Vauxhall is hoping to increase its presence in the compact estate sector with the latest Astra Sports Tourer.

MPVs and 4x4s might offer more interesting options for family buyers but the solid, practical virtues of a good estate are not to be under-estimated.

This one's cleaner, more frugal, more practical, higher-tech and sharper to look at than before. It's a better package all-round.

When what you need to fit in your car just won't, you need a bigger car. Family hatchback owners confronted with this nightmare scenario have a number of options at their disposal. They could take the rugged route with a compact 4x4, choose the versatility of a mini-MPV or step up to a medium range saloon.

Alternatively, they could turn to an extended version of the family hatchback they already have. The estate car isn't the trendiest or most exciting option, but when you need a little bit more room, it does the job. Vauxhall's Astra Sports Tourer is little more than an extended Astra hatch but it could be all the car you need, especially in latest generation form.

Many of the leading lights in the family hatchback sector have an estate version. Focus, Golf, Peugeot 308 – the manufacturers of all these models see the value of tagging another few centimetres onto the rear of the five-door hatches to give customers the option of extra carrying capacity.

Vauxhall has a history of following suit with its Astra but like its rivals, sales of Astra estates have traditionally been way down on those of the standard hatchback versions.

The compact estate market looks likely

to remain a niche one but with flashy Sports Tourer branding, this generation Astra estate could be destined to take a bigger slice of it.

Like the rest of the Astra Sports Tourer, the suspension is shared with the Astra hatchback. Reducing this latest model's weight by up to 200kgs has had a significant effect on the way this car drives.

It now soaks up bumps better and turns into the bends more easily, aided by a stiffer chassis and torque vectoring that helps with cornering traction. As before, this Vauxhall does without the kind of independent rear suspension system you'd find on a rival Ford Focus Estate, instead favouring a neat Watts linkage system that claims to reduce sideways motion between the axle and the body of the car as you go through the corners.

Under the bonnet, those in search of petrol power have an up-to-the-minute range of options.

We'd suggest you bypass the most affordable 100PS 1.4-litre engine in favour of the lighter, more responsive and much more efficient 105PS 1.0-litre ECOTEC turbo three cylinder unit. If you need more power, there are a couple of 1.4-litre Turbo powerplants offering 125 or 150PS, plus a top 200PS 1.6 Turbo option. Diesel drivers get Vauxhall's refined 1.6-litre CDTi 'whisper diesel' unit with a choice of three power outputs – 110, 136 or 160PS. The 110PS ecoFLEX variant delivers class-leading efficiency figures – 91.2mpg on the combined cycle and 82g/km of CO₂.

The Sports Tourer body shape further extends the now-sportier styling of the seventh generation five-door model. The slightly arched sloping roofline gives this estate derivative a longer appearance – an effect further enhanced by the divided C-pillar. The rear view aims to combine practicality with a bit of elegant design, but



.....
The suspension is shared with the Astra hatchback. Reducing this latest model's weight by up to 200kgs has had a significant effect on the way this car drives

overall, the emphasis is on a stable, robust and safe stance, with the muscular rear-wheel arch contours and the divided rear light clusters adding to this impression. This latest generation Sports Tourer has the same dimensions as its predecessor, with a length of 4,702mm, a width of 1,871mm and a height of 1,499mm. Despite that, it offers much more space for passengers and luggage.

The driver can enjoy 26mm of additional headroom and passengers in the rear have 28mm more. The Sports Tourer's total cargo capacity is now 1,630-litres with the rear seat folded, this thanks to more efficient packaging.

At the wheel, the characteristic fascia

element is what Vauxhall refers to as a 'blade'-style panel that stretches right across the cabin trimmed in piano black with a neat chromed edging. Beautifully integrated into it is an IntelliLink infotainment screen, either 7 or 8-inches in size.

There's a price premium of around £1,000 for the Sports Tourer estate version over its five-door hatchback stablemate and that means you'll be paying from just over £16,500 to around £21,000 for mainstream versions.

At the affordable end of the petrol line-up, it's well worth trying to find the £700 premium Vauxhall asks to graduate from the entry-level 1.4-litre 100PS unit to the far more responsive and efficient three cylinder 1.0-litre powerplant.

Want a diesel? Well there are no duffers in the Astra black pump line-up any more – even the base 110PS 1.6-litre CDTi unit (priced from around £18,000) is impressive. Most buyers though, pay the necessary premium (around £700) to get themselves this engine in pokier 136PS guise.

Conventional automatic transmission is only available on the 150PS 1.4-litre petrol Turbo model or the 136PS version of the 1.6-litre CDTi diesel – for a premium of around £1,300 over the manual variant. However, at the bottom of the range, you can get a simpler 'Easytronic' set-up – essentially a manual gearbox without a clutch – on the 1.0-litre petrol engine for a premium of just £400.

Standard equipment across the range includes alloy wheels and an IntelliLink colour infotainment touchscreen compatible with the latest Apple CarPlay and Android Auto systems. We particularly like the 'OnStar' personal connectivity system that offers destination downloads, wi-fi access, vehicle tracking system and automatic accident emergency response.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 83.1 (3.4), Extra-urban: 23.3 (12.1) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 17.9 (15.8) - 91.1 (3.1). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 82g/km. #

On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offers available on orders or registrations between 1 April and 30 June 2016 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only, excluding B2B supported units). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Savings shown are against list price. For details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. #Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.

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All sizes available, competitive prices. Call now on: 01922 711411 or 07592 940556.

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Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices: **0121 557 3346**

tree services

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Re-Upholstering of Sofas, Dining Furniture, Caravans, Car Retrimers and more. **www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk 87543 599677**

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

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UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

3pc/4pc sofas/caravans/pubs/clubs/antique es. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS.

Antique guns, taxidermy - big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

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Antique guns, taxidermy - big bore guns, traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

vets

Express & Star

THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on **01902 319191**.

pets corner

C.A.A.R.S PET RESCUE

Registered Charity PET RESCUE & BOARDING KENNELS FOR DOGS AND CATS
Open Mon to Sun
Call 01922 476208
Red Lane off Crab Lane
Exington WY1 2DZ

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS

All neutered, inoculated and microchipped. Call 01922 412212 or **www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk**
RGT Wolverhampton @RGTWolves

CHIUAHUA bitch, tri colour, smooth coat, not teacup size, eight months old, fully inoculated, £180 ono. 07591 117437 POODLE DOG SPECIALIST Clipping and Grooming. Contact: 07855 405022 / 01543 876145. WANTED KITTEN 8 - 10 weeks old, must be in good health. Good home waiting. 0121 293 6133.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS

Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

6 Property

accommodation to let

LOOK

No Deposit "Move in Today" Studios from £90pw Rooms from £50pw "Includes Most Bills" D.S.S. Welcome
Check Website - Live List
All Black Country
01902 21 31 21
accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS

It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

SELT CONTAINED Bedsit/Flat, Wilenhall, CH, DG, Inc heating / electric / water. 07956 163379.

NOTICE TO READERS

It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

SELT CONTAINED Bedsit/Flat, Wilenhall, CH, DG, Inc heating / electric / water. 07956 163379.

SELT CONTAINED Bedsit/Flat, Wilenhall, CH, DG, Inc heating / electric / water. 07956 163379.

houses for sale

LOOK

DOWN SIZING AND LOOKING FOR A CHANGE

Unique two bedroom modernised cottage courtyard garden, in centre of Historic Literary Lichfield, close to rail and bus stations, shops etc, £170,000 Freehold. Call 07948 996799. Or Email **maryfebaker@outlook.com**

NOTICE TO READERS

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properties wanted

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Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
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Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL **01902 319 191**
Brought to you by Express & Star

7 Jobs

full time - general

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required
Calling all Saddle Bridle and Fancy Leather Sewing Machinists.
Two vacancies for high quality Machinists. Good rates of pay, some flexibility in working hours. Expanding company with good working conditions. No fixed spring/summer shut downs.
Telephone: 01922 624363
Email to: **info@saddlery.co.uk**
Contact Name: Sean Jeffs or Izzy Heeley.

PANEL WIREPERSON/ ELECTRICIAN

required to work within a busy but friendly environment. Duties to include assembling control panels using drills, taps and hole punches. Wiring of control panels to our internally produced schematic drawings, installation of interconnecting cable looms and motor cables on our internally manufactured plant. (General electrical/ maintenance experience would be advantageous). Must be able to work within a team but also without full time supervision. To apply send written CV/application to **Mr Craig Perkins at Foundry Machinery & Spares Ltd., Unit G Fryers Close, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2XQ** or email: **info@fmslimited.co.uk**

Telephone Sales - Timber Products, Walsall

We are looking for a conscientious individual capable of accurately processing orders and quotations, building relationships with customers and supporting Field Sales personnel. Excellent communication skills are essential. Candidates will be computer literate (knowledge of Kerridge software will be a significant advantage) and will have already gained experience in selling softwoods and/or panel products to the Merchant and Construction sectors. We offer a very competitive package and ongoing career development. If you feel you can make a positive contribution to our team, then please email: **dmoores@ge-robinson.co.uk** enclosing a full CV or write to: **David Moore, Associate Sales Director G E Robinson & Co Ltd Long Street, Walsall WS2 9DY** **www.ge-robinson.co.uk**

GE ROBINSON & CO LTD

WALSALL WS2 9DY

SENIOR REPORTER

The Shropshire Star is looking for a senior reporter.

This is a role that requires dedication, commitment and enthusiasm. You must have a proven record of digging out the best off-diary news stories and features, together with an awareness of how to make the most of social media.

You must be an NCTJ-trained journalist and able to deliver accurate, entertaining copy under pressure of deadlines for our print and digital platforms. You must have a full, clean driving licence.

This is a rare opportunity to join the team at the Shropshire Star, part of the Midland News Association stable of publications across the Midlands.

You will benefit from a competitive salary, 25 days annual holiday and the chance to develop your career on one of the country's biggest regional newspapers.

Apply by e-mail to Shropshire Star editor Martin Wright at **editorial.support@shropshirestar.co.uk**
Closing date will be June 3, 2016.

POSTAL APPLICATIONS TO:
MARTIN WRIGHT EDITOR
SHROPSHIRE STAR
KETLEY, TELFORD TF1 5HU
BY JUNE 6, 2016.

HGV DRIVER CLASS 2

Walsall Permanent Candidates must hold a Class 2 licence, CPC and Digi Card. Hlab and Fork Lift licences / experience will be an advantage but training is available.

Please email **pwilmet@ge-robinson.co.uk** enclosing a full CV or write to: **Peter Wilmet, General Manager G E Robinson & Co Ltd Long Street Walsall WS2 9DY**
www.ge-robinson.co.uk

part time - general

CRIME PREVENTION DOOR SALES AGENTS

required. No experience necessary. Training provided. Earn up to £100 plus per day. Commission based. All areas. Saturday & Sunday working (weekends only). Tel 07988 345131

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Wanted for delivering copies of Express & Star in

NEWS DELIVERERS

needed in the Stroud Avenue area of Willehally. Please contact **Customer Services on 0800 174 064**.

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required for South Derbyshire contracts, good rates of pay and bonus scheme, CSCS cards, tools and transport required. Contact Mark for immediate starts on 07540 722469.

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required full time to work within a busy but friendly environment. Must have experience in MIG Welding, Drilling / Acetylene cutting, grinding, guillotining and fabricating from CAD drawings. Must be able to work within a team without full time supervision. To apply send written CV / application to **Mr Craig Perkins at Foundry Machinery & Spares Ltd., Unit H, Fryers Close, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2XQ** or email: **info@fmslimited.co.uk**

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Every Thursday our special jobs section is packed with the week's latest vacancies.

Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.

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STAR

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8

Motoring

cars over £1500

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget. Packages start from as little as **£21.00 for 6 nights** Plus 6 nights free if you do not sell.

CALL 01902 317878

FIAT PANDA
light blue, 36,000 miles, 12 months MOT, RJ56 NYC, excellent condition, FSH, 2 owners, pensioner car, Garmin Sat Nav, bargain.
£1700 ono.
01922 441203. 07512 347488.

FORD MONDEO Titanium X, 2.2, 2009, 39k, hypnic silver, immaculate, 1 owner, sunroof, rear spoiler, FFSH, £6,995. 07976 584250.

motorbikes

BSA STARFIRE 250cc, 1970, all work done to a high standard, 11 months MOT, £2,950. 01889 570265. 07975 672997.

NFL MOTORCYCLE TRAINING
CBT to full licence. Call Sam - 9pm for deals 01902 494422.

SUZUKI 125 Gamma, long MoT, tidy bike, wheel seeing, 5675 ono. 07841 163389 or 01543 503349.

TWO BIKE motorbike trailer, new jersey wheel and tyres, good condition. £250. 01785 255563/07913 021857.

YAMAHA VIRAGO 535, H reg, A2 legal, purple met. MoT'd battery, oil, plugs March, Starts great. Only 36k, £900 ono. 01543 503469.

MAZDA MX5 1.8SE COUPE
2013, 14,000 miles. Immaculate. Midnight blue metallic, electric roof, windows, etc. Air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, central locking, alloys, stereo, heated leather.
£13,500 ono.
07811 755523.

MERCEDES 180 ESPRIT, 1998, auto, green, AMG wheels, showroom condition, stunning example, 1,650 ono. 09080137788.

MINI COOPER convertible, 09, Grey, 70k, full MoT, FSH, very good condition, 2 previous owners, MPI clear, 44,750 ono. 07540 125379.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4 petrol, manual, 64k, met blue, reg serviced, full MoT, 3 lady owners, lovely condition, 2,300 ono. 07581 08902.

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0, CDTi, 12 months MoT, 120,000 miles, SH, white, immaculate condition. £3,400. 07449 87847.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must be clearly differentiated between Private and Trade.

FORD KA 03 PLATE MoT March 2017, good reliable car £350 ono. 07766 113003.

FORD KA Collection, 1.3, 2005 reg, silver, only 42k, with SH, lady owner, full MoT, stunning condition, only £995. 07963 464780.

KIA PICANTO 5dr, met blue, 1.1, 57 reg, 32,000 genuine miles, excellent condition throughout £1,295. 01922 695223.

NISSAN ALMERA 2004, 5dr, 63k, silver fsh, long mot, e/w, e/m, 11 months condition, private plate included, first to see will buy, £1,300 ono 07914067441

PEUGEOT 307 HDiEST, 2004, 78,000 miles, full MoT. £625 ono. 07853 645688.

RENAULT MODUS, 2004, 61,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, MoT, sunroof, £550 ono. 07969 209113.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 DTi Diesel, 2000, 9 months MoT, tow bar, good condition. £500 ono. 07836 569903.

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgaskets, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

personal

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

BARBARA, 49, attractive green-eyed blonde, OHAC, likes travel, cinema, meals out etc. looking for genuine caring male up to 65yr for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422439

KIM, 32yrs, attractive blonde lady seeks discreet gent for daytime distractions, ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 421657

FEMALE, 67, young looking widow, 5ft2, green eyes, likes meals out, holidays, reading, WLTm gentleman of similar age, or older. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422393

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422459

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall, slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237

EMMA 56, active and always on the go, seeks fit, active, country loving guy who shares passion for the outdoors. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422443

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

KATHY, 45, curvy blonde seeking reliable honest man who can get me out of this rut I am looking in, open to new ideas and looking for someone special? Give me a try. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422263

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easygoing guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422267

WENDY, mature, passionate ladylike divorcee seeks no strings casual friendship/fun with gent any age. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 421605

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated blonde lady, 38yrs, WLTm man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. Box 4017857

FEMALE, looking for an honest, caring, easygoing male. I am divorced and like walks, going for meals, cinema and logs. Tel only Mailbox: 453974

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. Box: 4078682

LICENSING ACT 2003
Application has been made by Ali Mohammed Ali, to the regulatory services, Licensing Unit at Walsall Council for the variation of the existing premises licence, in respect of: **UK Zabka Supermarket, 1 Caldmore Green, Walsall, West Midlands WS1 3RL**

The applicant proposes to carry on the following licensable activities:
To extend hours for the sale of alcohol to 07.00 - 03.00 am hours, 7 days a week, subject to the store being open for trading.
For consumption off the premises
Full details of the application may be viewed at the Council Offices, Regulatory Services, Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1TP during normal office hours Monday to Friday (www.walsall.gov.uk)

Responsible authorities or other persons can make written representations regarding the application, to the above licensing authority, and they must be received no later than 21st June 2016.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application and on the summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

EILEEN SHEILA MILLWARD (Maiden name: Woolridge) (Deceased)

Pursant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 32 MAR WINDMILL PLACE, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, RG9 1EP (Previous address: 69 HEATH ROAD, WILLENHALL WV12 5EW), who died on 02/11/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 28/07/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Suzanne Millward Scott, LARKS ACRE, MIDDLE ASCENDON, HENLEY-ON-THAMES RG9 6BS

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

16/0278 CENTRO FOR: RTI (REAL TIME) SUMMARY BOARD (WITH TRIN TIMES) PLUS CANVASS BANNERS x 4 (AFFECTS PUBLIC FOOTPATH WAL108) AT: CAR PARK, BESCOOT PARK & RIDGE, BESCOOT CRESCENT, WALSALL, WS1 4TS

16/0512 Lid UK GmbH FOR: PROPOSED 75 METRE ILLUMINATED TOTEM SIGN, AT: LIDL, 73, ABLEWELL STREET, WALSALL, WS1 2EU

16/0351 Caldmore Green Ltd FOR: CONVERSION OF FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR TO 3 FLATS AT: 14, CALDMORE GREEN, WALSALL, WS1 3RL

16/0528 Jon Mott FOR: CHANGE OF USE OF EXISTING RETAIL UNIT (USE CLASS A1) TO HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY (USE CLASS A5), TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED MINOR EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS. AT: 5, ANCHOR PARADE, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL, WS9 80P

16/0167 Mr Ajah Singh Benning FOR: PROPOSED REPLACEMENT SHOP FRONT AND SECURITY SHUTTER AT: INTERNATIONALE, 29, PARK STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1LY

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01902 317878



ClassifiedAds

Express & Star DATING

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To Place your advert call:
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To Place your ad by text:
0844 381 5936
Simply text **REG** (followed by your first name, date of birth, and number of your advert (max 155 characters) and send to 0906. **FREE** Standard Network only.

YOU can now Date ONLINE or via your mobile just visit:
http://dating.expressandstar.com

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet you... visit... http://dating.expressandstar.com

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

JOANNA, 49 years old, looking to meet a man for friendship 50/60 years old. Text only Mailbox: 5428223

LORRAINE bored 36yr old looking for discreet no strings fun with likeminded uncomplicated male, any age/looks/status. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422241

SARA, 39, home owner, likes animals, tattoos and texting, looking for friendship hopefully leading to more. Get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421455

LUCY, 49, just looking to enjoy life, can you help? seeks fun and good times in or out, nothing heavy just no strings meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422223

CHRISTINE, 48, petite blue eyed brunette, attractive, many varied interests, looking for honest, caring, N/S romantic guy with GSOH to make my life complete again. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422245

MARILYN blue eyed curvy just right female, 36, loves music, good wine, romantic strolls, cosy nights in, WLTm like minded romantic for quality times. Agt unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422227

BROWN eyed brummie female, 65, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm male, 66-73, for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

CLARA, 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422055

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

JENNY, 48, single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422033

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421877

SHARON a young 49, caring bubbly sincere single lady, full curvy figure, loves the coast and seaside, cosy meals in WLTm male with similar interests. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422013

TALL leggy slim brunette 37, attractive and very much single, WLTm fun loving guy 40-60yrs who loves food wine, cosy nights in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422029

PRETTY, very fit, young 49 year old female, no baggage, seeks fit, refined male, m's, with young outlook, for evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421977

CILLA, 40, tall blue eyed size 12 brunette, loves horses, country/beach walks, cosy nights in front of fire, good wine/food, WLTm similar male who appreciates my interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422008

TINA, 43, outgoing person, attractive single female looking for love, with similar lonely heart desiring to adventure in the hope of finding love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421613

CARING honest female, WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

ANNA, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421127

LOVELY lady inside and out, likes music, art, days out, countryside, poetry, model railways, socialising, DVDs, looking for a kind hearted gent, 52+, with a caring nature and GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421935

FEMALE, 60s, young looking for my age, likes singing, dancing, meals in and out, theatre, fun to be with. Single would like to meet the same. Text only Mailbox: 5448634

SALLY 37 blonde, blue eyed, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421451

CARING honest female WLTm genuine guy for LTR in Glos/Bristol area. Text mail box only. Text only Mailbox: 4209465

MANDY divorced independent 46yrs old, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421841

FEMALE seeks male to wine and dine me, and treat me like a lady, aged between 50 and 60. Text only Mailbox: 5444151

BROWN eyed brummie female, smoker, likes music, cinema, meals out, WLTm white male for LTR. Text only Mailbox: 4400186

SHARON 49, med to well built, cuddly, young at heart, happy, easygoing, loves the coast and seaside looking for honest friendly male. Text only Mailbox: 5444189

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

ATTRACTIVE male, 57, tall, seeks mature female, 50-75, for close adult fun, any size or status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422409

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. Box: 4138405

DAVE, 65, slim, white male, Birmingham area, easygoing, likes music, country pubs, animals, WLTm petite, easygoing, white female, for LTR friendship/relationship, if this is you get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422395

SHAUN, 49, 5ft10, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, GSOH, OHAC, honest, romantic, animal lover, likes country pubs, wine, travel, the animal and countryside, or looking for somebody who is down to earth and fun loving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396440

18+ and you want to be taught? Teacher glad to teach you, older, experienced guy, gentle and tender. See ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422203

WIDOWED OAF 82, WLTm lady any age for genuine companionship, togetherness, holidays and more. Can travel or accommodate. Text only Mailbox: 4652673

MIKE, 64, outgoing person, enjoys life, likes sport, cricket, tennis, meals out, holidays, WLTm someone to share interests and quality time. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422329

47 year old guy, tall, dark hair, blue eyes, seeks female, 30-42, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422213

ALWAYS loved it and want to experience an older man, who knows how to make love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422209

ASIAN gent, 48, kind and caring, wishes to meet lady for chats, weekend outings and LTR, any age/status, ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422181

MALE, 40s, looking for a special lady to spend fun times together and long lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421747

KISSING in depth, do what turns us on? Both unattached, yourself 35 to ..., am kinky, 69, Cancer sign, WLTm for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422177

NICE old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905

MATURE Male average build and age WLTm a lady any status, 45-70, for discreet fun. Text only Mailbox: 1277446

GUY, 58, 5ft 11ins, looking for slim lady for fun times only meets. Text only Mailbox: 4918364

45 YEAR male with varied interests WLTm female, 35 to 55, for friendship and hopefully more. Text only Mailbox: 421562

MALE early 60s, young outlook on life, seeks similar 50s earl 60s genuine female, slim with GSOH for friendship maybe more. Text only Mailbox: 5443478

PAUL 65yrs, Mobility probs but very caring looking for caring lady 60/70 for friendship and possible LTR. Text only Mailbox: 5456394

Customer support

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Junior players with Penn Golf Club professional Adam Robinson



The Penn Golf Club shop



Penn Golf Club senior players with the club captain Alex Haynes

Club in the swing for National Golf Month

PENN Golf Club has teed off for a busy month of action with a wide series of events.

The well-appointed club that spreads out across the scenic Penn Common will have one eye of the future when it stages the Wolverhampton and Dudley Primary Schools Putting Championships throughout the summer term. Families can also get into the swing of things on Bank Holiday Monday, May 30 with a Family Putting Challenge from 2-7pm, with golf and family meal-deal vouchers up for grabs. It is open to non-club members.

The club is also hosting two prestigious individual events, with 84 players from all over the country taking part in the Inaugural American Golf Seniors Championship. The top three pairs will qualify for the national final at The Belfry later in the year.

Progress

To conclude National Golf Month, Penn will be the host venue for the England Golf Midland Region Ladies Final Medal on Sunday.

A field of 120 players from across the Midlands will tee off in an 18-hole stroke play competition. The top 10 progress to Grand Medal Final Week in August.

The packed schedule will add to secretary Mick Woodhouse's increasing workload but he is more than happy to help the club build towards a bright future.

Woodhouse is especially keen to increase the number of youngsters at the club and has forged a partnership with numerous schools across Wolverhampton that sees him and the club's qualified PGA coaches run sessions.

"Golf clubs going out to put sessions on at schools is quite a unique thing," said Woodhouse, who will be teeing off in the Seniors Championship on Friday.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"We are trying to attract young members and any budding golfers can come along and join our academy."

"We go to quite a lot of schools across the Wolverhampton area and we are planning something similar in Dudley," Whitehouse added.

"We deliver sessions and it's really enjoyable. The Tri Golf is very popular because it caters for players of all abilities.

"We are trying to attract young members to the club and any budding golfers can come along and join our academy."

The academy offers a pathway from beginner to professional under the guidance of academy director and club professional Mark Butler and junior organiser Adam Robinson.

"Mark Butler is our club professional and he runs the Mark Butler Golf Academy at Sedgley," added Woodhouse.

"The youngsters can go there and have some sessions with Mark and then hopefully join our club."

"That's the pathway we are trying to create."

One of Penn's former juniors, James Willis, is flying the flag for the club on the professional scene.

"James Willis started as a junior here and he has just turned professional," said Woodhouse.

"James is from Sedgley and he used to play county

golf for Staffordshire and got a scholarship in America. That's an example of the pathway open to young players.

"A lot of our members started off as juniors here, and some have gone on to be captain of the club."

Eight-handicapper Woodhouse was a keen cricketer with Wightwick before catching the golfing bug.

He has been a member at Penn since 1988 and, along with a hard-working committee, is determined to drive the club forward in what is a competitive business.

"We are trying to look after the club's future," he said.

"Forging links with locals schools is an important step while it's great for the club to be staging the American Golf Seniors Championship and the England Golf Midland Region Ladies Final Medal.

Stable

"Staging events such as those is testament to the quality of our course and helps raise the club's profile.

"We have a membership of around 500.

"We are doing okay. We are stable and that's not a bad position in today's market because it's very competitive."

"It's a lovely environment here and we are also planning to refurbish the club."

"We have a very good committee here, so we are moving in the right direction."

The schools and family putting competitions are sponsored and supported by The Golf Foundation so there is no charge for instruction or entry into the competitions.

They are open to school Years 4, 5 and 6 and schools can take up to 15 pupils per event.

Any schools or families wishing to enter and take part in the competitions can do so by contacting the club on 01902 341142 or e-mail secretary@penn-golf-club.co.uk



Young hopeful Dan Porter makes a putt



Members relax at the 19th hole – inside the clubhouse



Zak Jones tees off as junior players look on

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Powles' men go top after rain-hit win

WALSALL Cricket Club's impressive start to the season continued as they climbed into pole position in the Birmingham League Premier Division.

The Gorway men were the big winners on a day decimated by the weather with a 24-run Duckworth Lewis success against Walmley seeing them leapfrog Berkswell at the top of the table.

A classy innings from in-form opener James Middleton set Walsall on their way. He struck seven fours and four sixes on his way to 69 from 62 balls as the visitors were dismissed for 225.

After an interruption for rain Walmley faced a revised target of 141 from 20 overs and ended on 117-8 with seamer Ed Denham and spinner Paul Byrne picking up two wickets apiece.

The win was Walsall's third in four games but skipper David Powles insists his side have yet to hit top form.

"We couldn't have asked for a better start," said Powles. "It's going much better than I expected."

"The confidence is high and the guys are playing good cricket. We are still in all the cup competitions and we have got some good momentum. But there are areas we can improve on, we haven't hit our straps yet like I know we can."

"It's good to be winning games knowing we can still improve."

"We were very fortunate with the break in the weather on Saturday, we just had enough time to get the game in."

"But it was a reward for our persistence. It would have been easy to say let's go home because of the weather, but we stuck around and we wanted to play. "When a lot of other games are called off, those are the sort of results that can help you stay up if you are fighting relegation or help you win leagues."

All the other Premier Division clashes were abandoned.

Byfield takes the Redditch hotseat

FORMER Walsall striker Darren Byfield has been appointed manager of Redditch United. Byfield, who scored the Saddlers' 2001 play-off final winner against Reading at the Millennium Stadium, will have former Hednesford Town frontman Kyle Patterson as number two at the Valley Stadium.

Club chairman Chris Swan admitted there had been no shortage of high-calibre applicants but Byfield was the stand-out candidate.

Swan said: "We have no doubt that Darren has a promising career in management ahead of him. He has played football at the highest level and now wants to replicate that success on the sidelines."

Patterson had been caretaker manager at Keys Park following the departure of Frank Sinclair. Byfield was player/coach with Solihull Moors last season and also managed the u18s and reserves.

New Lockmen boss

WILLENHALL Town have announced Rob Walters and Mark Habbershaw as their new management team. Habbershaw moves into management after spells most recently with West Midlands Premier rivals Wolverhampton Casuals.

Webb feat as he lands a hat-trick



Successful Broadway swimming squad

BROADWAY young swimmers held their form in the second round of the junior league.

Blake Webb led the way, claiming a hat-trick, in the nine-year 25m freestyle and butterfly and the 10-year 50m freestyle. Adam Guild won the nine-year 25m breaststroke, Ewan Terry the nine-year 25m backstroke, Callum Bird the 10-year 25m butterfly and 50m breaststroke and Matthias Henry the 12-year 50m butterfly and freestyle.

Elodie Rollins won the girls 10-year 50m freestyle and Robyn Dolan the nine-year 25m freestyle. Winning teams in the relays were Rhiannon Powell, Robyn Dolan, Chloe Mallon, Georgia

Swimming

Archer in the nine-year girls freestyle and medley and first in the boys nine-year freestyle and medley events were: Harrison Botterill, Adam Guild, Blake Webb and Ewan Terry.

The 10-year freestyle and medley comprised Blake Webb, Matthew Dowd, Callum Bird, Devin Fernando and the 12-year boys, consisting of Matthias Henry, George Pattinson, Jenson Proctor and Rhys Peters, took the freestyle and medley.

In addition many swimmers finished a close second.

STEEL THE KEY FOR WHITNEY

BOSS Jon Whitney wants to install an 'old-school mentality' if he remains in charge of Walsall.

The 45-year-old is keen to remain as head coach and continues to hold talks with chairman Jeff Bonser over his role for the 2016/17 campaign.

And if he does remain in charge, fans can expect to see a team with some added steel.

"I have got a mentality that I am starting to bring in and I want to get some old-school football back into the game," he said.

"I want more steel and fight."

"We need to try to make sure we fight every team we play and that we have have players who will fight for Walsall Football Club."

"We are going to have to develop another team again but we have already got some youngsters coming through that are setting the training ground alight."

"But while it's important to be technical and tactical, I need to make sure they all have a bit of guile and will be ready when things become a battle."

After an outstanding League One season, Walsall finished third, but were humbled in the play-offs, falling 6-1 on aggregate to Barnsley, Jordan Cook scoring a mere consolation in the second leg at the Banks's.

"The margin of the defeat did hurt," said Whitney. "If I get beat 1-0 it hurts. I hate losing. But I have got a good win record because I always tried my best and gave everything I could."

"I couldn't fault the lads' energy and application but I could fault some of the decision making and our willingness to keep the ball out of the net."

New deals have been tabled to Romaine Sawyers, Jason Demetriou, Anthony Forde, Sam Mantom, Jordan Cook, Paul Downing, Reece Flanagan, Milan Lalkovic, Craig MacGillivray, Liam Roberts and Andy Taylor. Amadou Bakayoko has signed on for another year, but Levi Rowley and Jordan Murphy have been released.



Saddlers players applaud the crowd after the defeat to Barnsley in the League One play-offs

Craig's up for the Cup as top goalscorer

SPORTING Khalsa striker Craig Bannister has been recognised for his part in this season's FA Cup, topping the competition's scoring charts with nine.

The striker's run finally ended at the fourth qualifying stage when Khalsa were defeated by FC United of Manchester 3-1 in front of 2,252 supporters at the

Aspray Arena. Former Albion striker Matej Vydra is noted as the top scorer in the FA Cup's proper rounds this season, with six, but window fitter Bannister is recognised as the overall top scorer – and the feat was confirmed in the official match-day programme for Saturday's Wembley showpiece.

Bannister, a United fan, said:

"It is a proud moment for me, one that I can tell my kids about when they are older that's for sure."

"I did not expect to be mentioned."

"I did not think they would look down as far as the extra preliminary round and the qualifying rounds but I am really happy about it."

Welborn's title hopes take beating

JASON Welborn's hopes of a third crack at a British title were left in jeopardy after his shock setback at Walsall Football Club.

The 30-year-old Rowley Regis fighter was surprisingly defeated by journeyman William Warburton in the Stadium Suite at the Banks's.

Welborn was only back in action for the six-rounder because he'd destroyed Michal Voyska in 56 seconds – his first welterweight bout for over three years last month. But he was abject and paid the price, outpointed by one round for his first defeat which wasn't a title fight for 10 years.

Walsall's Martin Gethin, a former British lightweight champion, had to work hard for his points success over plucky Alexander 'Fonz' Anderson. 'The Quiet Man' Gethin, aged 32, was in action for the first time in 14 months up at light welter.

Another Black Country fighter, Wednesbury's Sam Evans, was frustrated by his Bulgarian opponent Teodor Stefanov despite a whitewash points win.

Fellow Ricky Hatton charge, the big Nantwich heavyweight Nathan Gorman, got the job done early with the night's only stoppage.

The heavy-handed teenager, 19, finished off Kamil Sokolowski in the fifth.

The card was completed by another two Midlandsers in Kieran McLaren, from Stoke-on-Trent and Chad Sugden, of Newark, who picked up points victories over Michael Mooney and Vaidas Balciuskas respectively.

A win for McLaren meant he extended his pro record to eight outings unbeaten.

Meanwhile, Daniel Breeze of Bloxwich prevailed from his grudge match with Rowley Regis's Natty Howell with the British Challenge middleweight title still intact.

Breeze outpointed his rival in a hotly-anticipated eight round contest on promoter Tommy Owens' show at Aston Villa Football Club's Holte Suite.

Friendly dates are confirmed by Pics

RUSHALL Olympic have confirmed pre-season friendlies at home to Nuneaton Town on July 19 before the trip to Heath Hayes on July 26.

Headed by John Allen, the Pics – who had former boss and Albion hero Richard Sneekes depart after two seasons at the helm – will also make the trip to Chasetown on July 30 before their final scheduled friendly at north Wales outfit Colwyn Bay on August 6.

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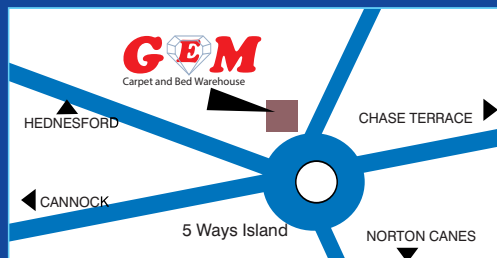
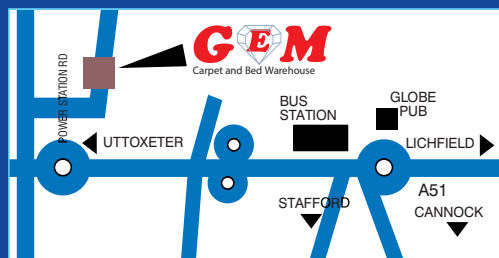
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